

**Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
State Nonpoint Source Grant Program**

*Continued Surface Water Quality Monitoring for Middle Yegua Creek,
Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek Watersheds*

TSSWCB Project # 20-54

Quality Assurance Project Plan

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Revision #0

prepared by

Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Texas Water Resources Institute

Effective Period: Upon final approval through February 28, 2022

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Section A1: Approval Sheet

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for *Continued Surface Water Quality Monitoring for Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek Watersheds*

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ATL	Aqua-Tech Laboratories, Inc.
AWRL	Ambient Water Reporting Limits
CAR	corrective action report
COC	chain of custody
DM	Data Manager
DMRG	data management reference guide
DO	dissolved oxygen
DQO	data quality objectives
LCS	laboratory control sample
LCSD	laboratory control sample duplicate
LM	Laboratory Manager
LOD	limit of detection
LOQ	limit of quantitation
NELAP	National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program
NWS	National Weather Service
OSSF	onsite sewage facility
PM	Project Manager
QA	quality assurance
QAO	Quality Assurance Officer
QAPP	quality assurance project plan
QC	quality control
QM	quality manual
QPR	quarterly progress report
RPD	relative percent difference
SOP	standard operating procedure
SWQM	surface water quality monitoring
SWQMIS	Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System
TCEQ SOP, V1	TCEQ's Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 1
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TSSWCB	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
TWRI	Texas AgriLife Research, Texas Water Resources Institute
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey
%R	percent recovery

Section A3: Distribution List

Organizations, and individuals within, which will receive copies of the approved QAPP and any subsequent revisions include:

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Name: June Brien
Title: ATL LM

Name: Marianne Guzman
Title: ATL QAO

Section A4: Project/Task Organization

The following is a list of individuals and organizations participating in the project with their specific roles and responsibilities:

TSSWCB – Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Temple, Texas. Provide state oversight and management of all project activities and ensure coordination of activities with related projects and TCEQ.

Jana Lloyd, TSSWCB PM

Responsible for ensuring that the project delivers data of known quality, quantity, and type on schedule to achieve project objectives. Provides the primary point of contact between TSSWCB and TWRI. Tracks and reviews deliverables to ensure that tasks in the work plan are completed as specified. Reviews and approves QAPP and any amendments or revisions and ensures distribution of approved/revised QAPPs to TSSWCB participants. Notifies TSSWCB QAO of any project non-conformances or corrective actions reported or taken by TWRI.

Mitch Conine; TSSWCB QAO

Reviews and approves QAPP and any amendments or revisions. Responsible for verifying that the QAPP is followed by project participants. Monitors implementation of corrective actions. Coordinates or conducts audits of field and laboratory systems and procedures. Determines that the project meets the requirements for planning, quality assessment (QA), quality control (QC), and reporting under the TSSWCB Nonpoint Source Management Program.

TWRI – Texas Water Resources Institute, College Station, Texas. Responsible for general project oversight, coordination and administration, project reporting, collection of water quality data, updating data analysis and characterization, updating Load Duration Curves (LDC), and QAPP development.

Allen Berthold, TWRI; Project Lead

Responsible for supporting the development and ensuring the timely delivery of project deliverables, ensuring cooperation between project partners, providing fiscal oversight and completing project reporting.

Lucas Gregory, TWRI; QAO

Responsible for determining that the QAPP meets the requirements for planning, QA and QC. Conducts audits of field and laboratory systems and procedures. Responsible for maintaining the official, approved QAPP, as well as conducting quality assurance audits in conjunction with TSSWCB personnel.

Stephanie deVilleneuve, TWRI; PM

The TWRI Project Manager is responsible for ensuring that tasks and other requirements in the contract are executed on time and with the QA/QC requirements in the system as defined by the contract and in the project QAPP; assessing the quality of subcontractor/participant work; and submitting accurate and timely deliverables to the TSSWCB PM.

Ed Rhodes, TWRI; Field Supervisor & Data Manager

Responsible for supervising all aspects of the sampling and measurement of surface waters and other parameters in the field. Responsible for the collection of water samples and field data measurements in a timely manner that meet the quality objectives specified in Section A7 (Table A7.1), as well as the requirements of Sections B1 through B8. Responsible for field scheduling, staffing, and ensuring that staff is appropriately trained. Reports status, problems, and progress to TWRI PM.

Responsible for acquisition, verification, and transfer of data to the TSSWCB PM. Oversees data management for the project. Performs data quality assurances prior to transfer of data to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in the format specified in the most recent version of the Surface Water Quality Monitoring (SWQM) Data Management Reference Guide (DMRG). Ensures that the data review checklist is completed and data is submitted with appropriate codes. Provides the point of contact for the TSSWCB PM to resolve issues related to the data and assumes responsibility for the correction of any data errors.

ATL – Aqua-Tech Laboratories, Inc., Bryan, Texas. Responsible for conducting laboratory analysis.

June Brien, ATL LM

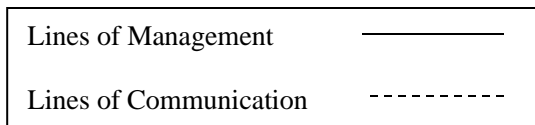
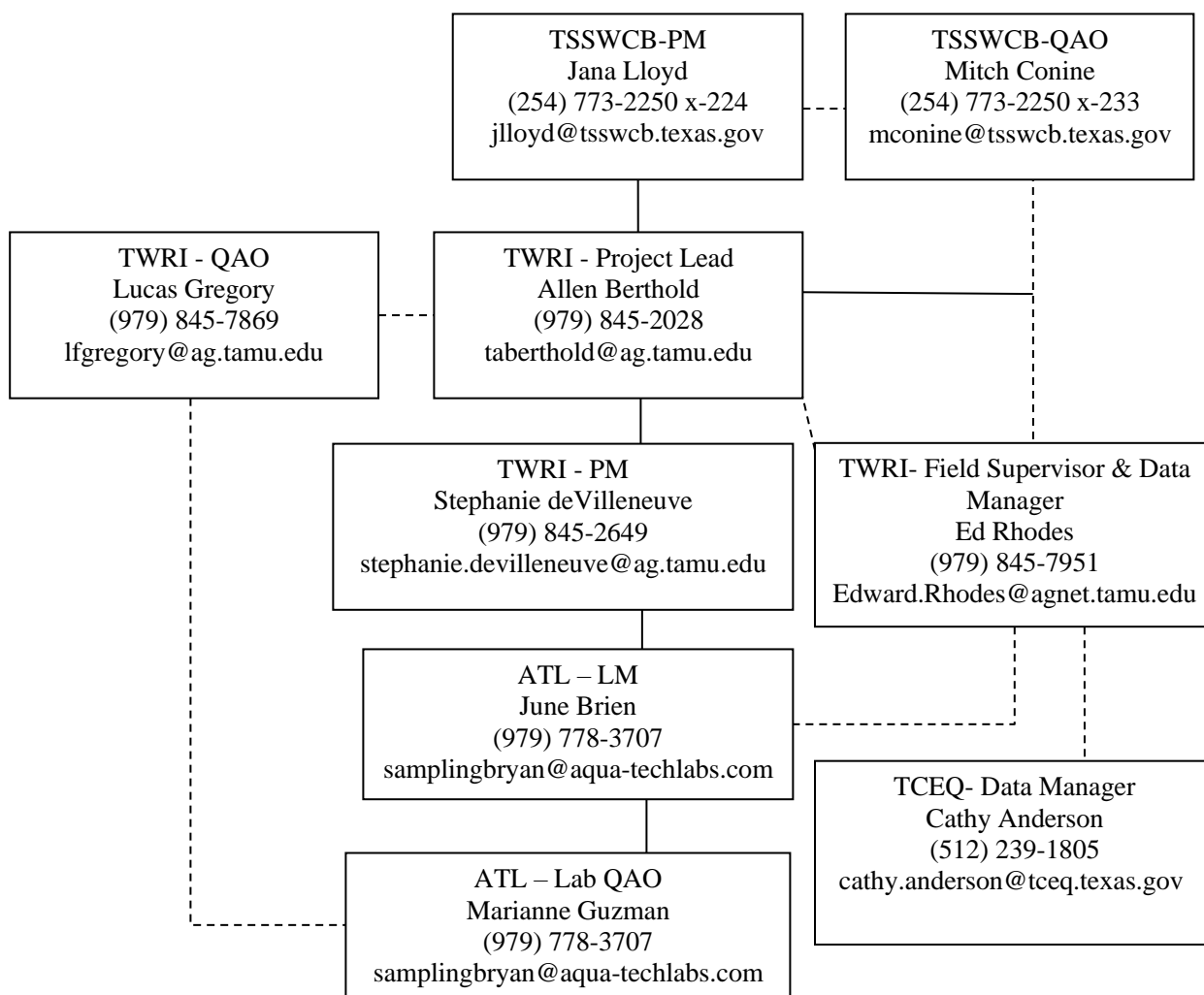
Responsible for overall performance, administration, and reporting of analyses performed by ATL. Responsible for supervision of laboratory personnel involved in generating analytical data for the project. Ensures that laboratory personnel have adequate training and a thorough knowledge of the QAPP and related SOPs. Responsible for oversight of all laboratory operations ensuring that all QA/QC requirements are met, documentation is complete and adequately maintained, and results are reported accurately. Enforces corrective action, as required. Facilitates monitoring systems audits. Reviews and verifies all laboratory data for integrity and continuity, reasonableness and conformance to project requirements, and then validates the data against the measurement performance specifications listed in Table A7.1 of the QAPP.

Marianne Guzman, ATL QAO

Monitors the implementation of the QAM and the QAPP within the laboratory to ensure complete compliance with QA objectives as defined by the contract and in the QAPP. Conducts internal audits to identify potential problems and ensure compliance with

written SOPs. Responsible for supervising and verifying all aspects of the QA/QC in the laboratory. Performs validation and verification of data before the report is sent to TWRI. Insures that all QA reviews are conducted in a timely manner from real-time review at the bench during analysis to final submittal of data to TWRI QA officer.

Figure A4.1. Project Organization Chart



Section A5: Problem Definition/Background

The Texas Integrated Report and 303(d) List has identified Middle Yegua Creek (SegID 1212A), Davidson Creek (SegID 1211A), and Deer Creek (SegID 1242J) as impaired for not meeting the state's water quality standard for contact recreation. The following AUs are impaired for elevated levels of bacteria: 1212A_02, 1211A_02, and 1242J_01. Davidson Creek is also impaired for depressed dissolved oxygen for AU 1211A_02.

Due to a lack of water quality data available for Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks, additional surface water quality monitoring data is necessary to provide a good foundation for future watershed planning and implementation activities. Also, this additional data can be used to update the existing characterization report, which will give stakeholders and other interested parties current knowledge of water quality issues in the watersheds.

Section A6: Project Goals and Task Description

TWRI will work to update existing aggregated data in the Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Watersheds Characterization Report. Additional data will be collected through monthly water quality monitoring at sites identified through the previous characterization process. TWRI will also update loadings and loading reductions needed to meet water quality standards.

Data aggregation and assessment will begin following approval of the project's QAPP and will focus on updating previously compiled existing watershed data. Updated data can include water quality data, streamflow records, census data and livestock estimates. If available, any new data regarding the number of septic systems and the extent of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Geographic information systems (GIS) will be utilized to update any maps if new data is available.

To add to data collected in the previous characterization project and attempt to fill data gaps to improve analysis, additional water quality data will be collected at 8 sites monthly (2 sites in the Deer Creek watershed and 3 sites in each of the Middle Yegua Creek and Davidson Creek watersheds). Water quality and flow data are crucial in estimating load reductions.

Load duration curves (LDCs) are widely accepted for depicting existing pollutant loading in relation to flow regime and enable current pollutant loads and needed pollutant loading reduction estimates to be made. LDCs from the previous characterization report will be updated at each sampling station in the watersheds with sufficient paired water quality and stream flow data (≥ 20 points).

The purpose of this QAPP is to clearly delineate the QA policy, management structure, and procedures, which will be used to implement the QA requirements necessary to update existing data and LDCs in the Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks Watersheds Characterization Report, and conduct water quality monitoring under tasks 3 and 4. Table A6.1 provides specific subtask milestones for this project.

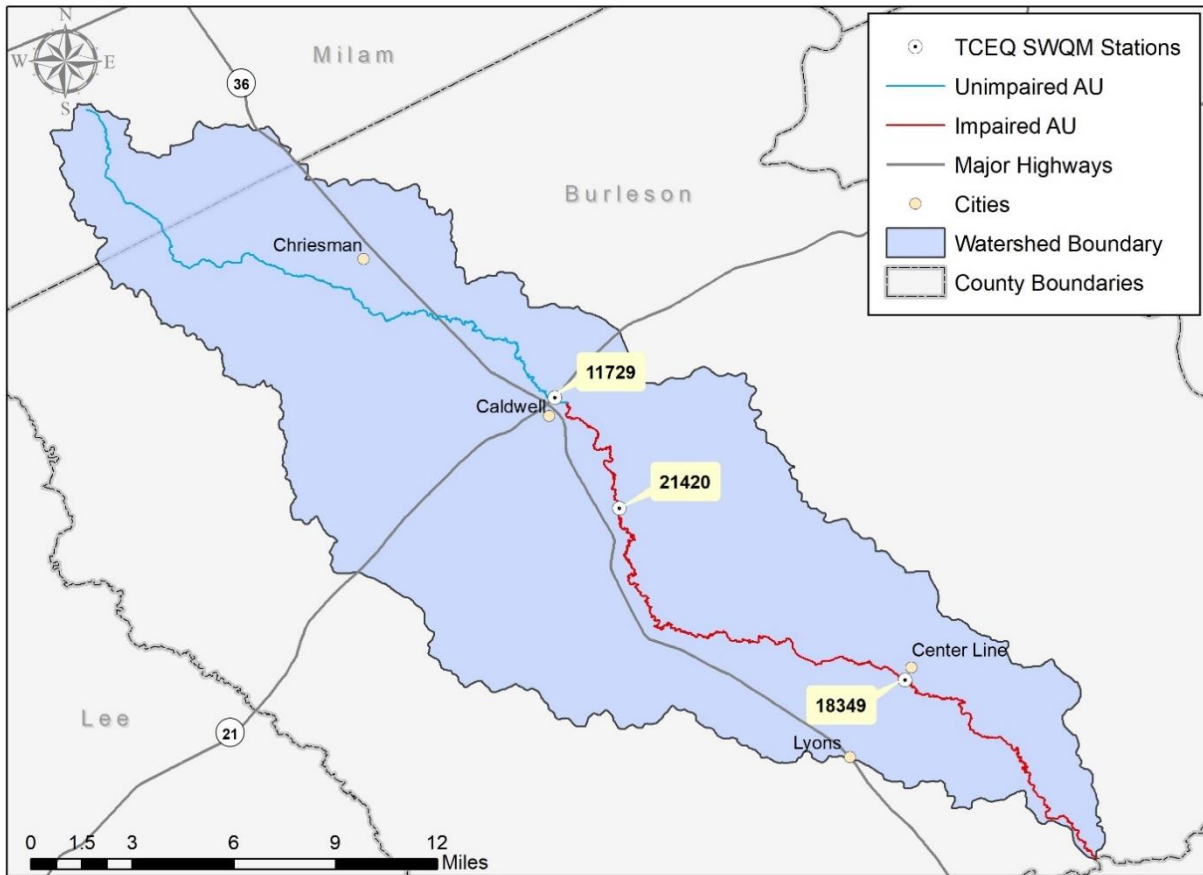


Figure A6.1. Davidson Creek Watershed and TCEQ monitoring stations

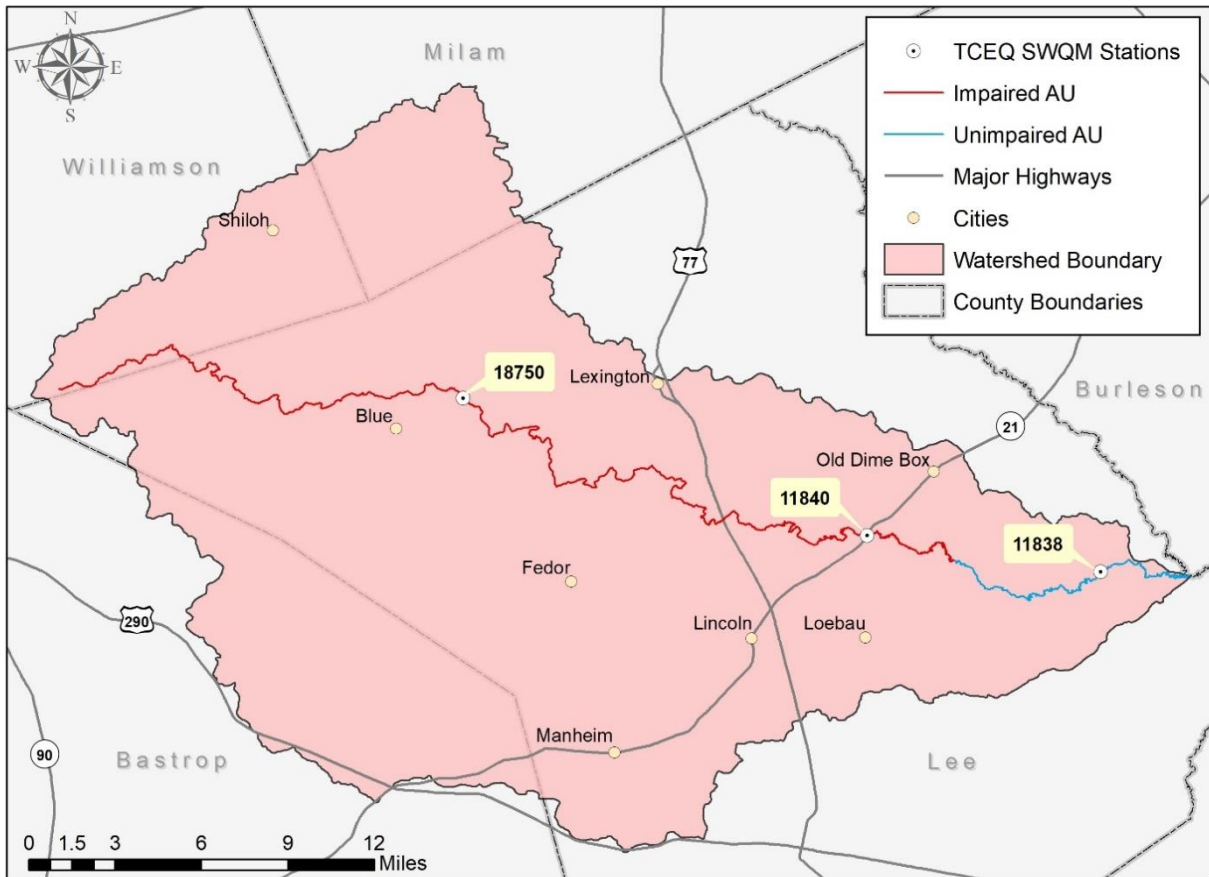


Figure A6.2. Middle Yegua Creek Watershed and TCEQ monitoring stations

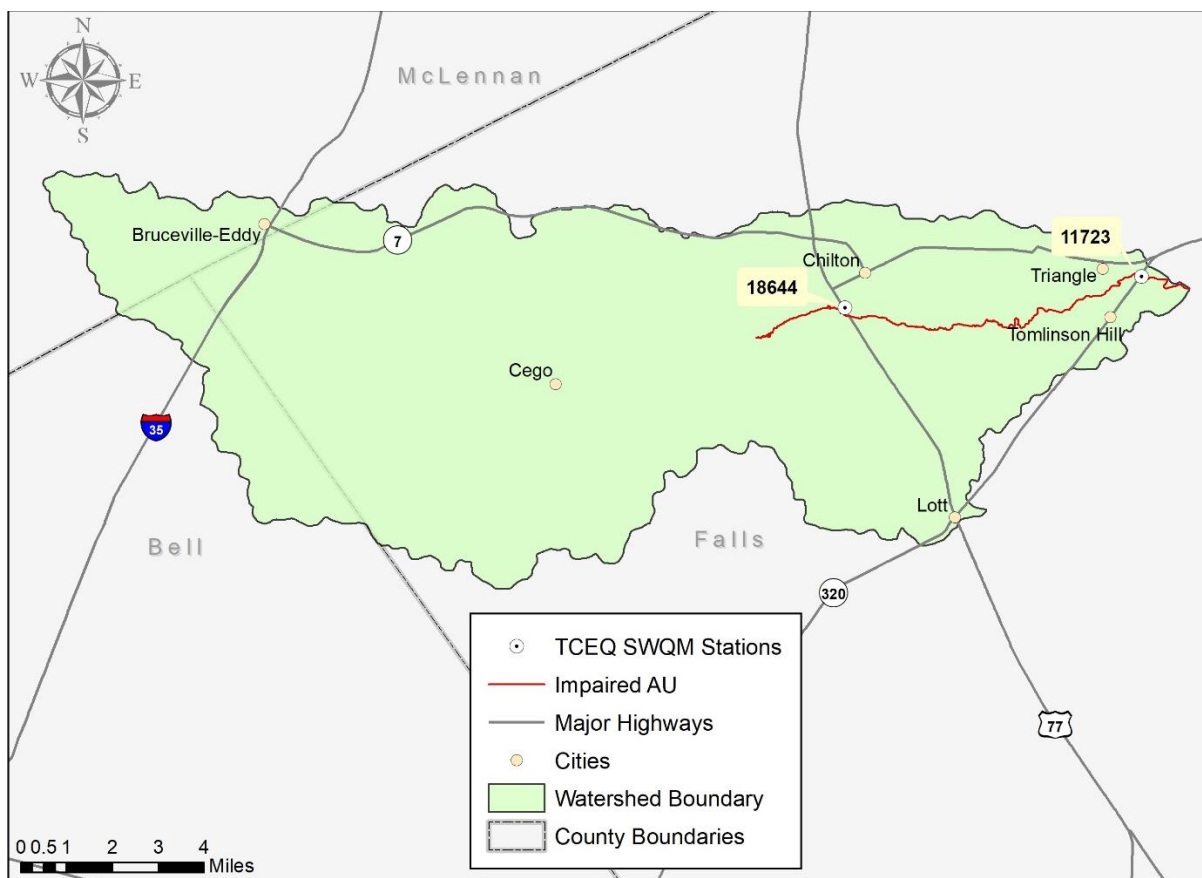


Figure A6.3. Deer Creek Watershed and TCEQ monitoring stations

Table A6.1. Project Plan Milestones

Task	Project Milestones	Agency	Start Month	End Month
3.1	TWRI will conduct monthly ambient water quality monitoring at two sites in the Deer Creek watershed and three sites in each of the Middle Yegua and Davidson Creeks watersheds. Sampling will include routine field parameters (Temperature, pH, DO, conductivity) and collection of water samples of the volume required by the QAPP in Task 2. Water samples will be delivered to ATL within the appropriate holding time for analysis. Water samples will be delivered to ATL within the appropriate holding time for analysis. Water samples returned to the lab will be analyzed for <i>E. coli</i> bacteria.	TWRI/ ATL	1	24
3.2	ATL will transfer completed lab analysis data to TWRI who will maintain a master database of collected data. Data will be submitted to TSSWCB by TWRI for submission to SWQMIS on a quarterly basis.	TWRI/ ATL	1	24

Task	Project Milestones	Agency	Start Month	End Month
4.1	TWRI will use any new data and information pertaining to water quality impairments and issues in the watersheds to update the GIS analysis. The data collected from the continued water quality monitoring in Task 3 will be used to update LDCs and estimated pollutant loadings. All newly acquired data and information will be assembled into an updated version of the Middle Yegua, Davidson, and Deer Creeks watersheds characterization report.	TWRI	1	24

TWRI will be responsible for the collection and transport of all water quality samples to ATL within appropriate sample holding times and in accordance with this QAPP. Sampling will be conducted routinely at the sampling sites designated in Tables A6.2.

ATL will receive water samples and analyze them for *E. coli* enumeration.

Table A6.2. Middle Yegua, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek Impaired Sampling Site Locations

TCEQ Station ID	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude	Start Date (Upon QAPP approval)	End Date	Mode of Sampling	Sample Matrix	Monitoring Freq.	Agency Responsible for Sampling	Monitor Type*
18750	Middle Yegua Creek FM 696	30.408554	-97.107521	06/2020	11/2021	Grab	Water	18	TWRI	RT
11840	Middle Yegua Creek at SH 21	30.339575	-96.904343	06/2020	11/2021	Grab	Water	18	TWRI	RT
11838	Middle Yegua Creek at FM 141	30.321388	-96.78672	06/2020	11/2021	Grab	Water	18	TWRI	RT
11723	Deer Creek at SH 320	31.279337	-96.977783	06/2020	11/2021	Grab	Water	18	TWRI	RT
18644	Deer Creek at US 77	31.269526	-97.071312	06/2020	11/2021	Grab	Water	18	TWRI	RT
11729	Davidson Creek at SH 21	30.539814	-96.689903	06/2020	11/2021	Grab	Water	18	TWRI	RT
21420	Davidson Creek at Burleson County Road 122	30.492727	-96.662144	06/2020	11/2021	Grab	Water	18	TWRI	RT
18349	Davidson Creek Near FM 60	30.419445	-96.540001	06/2020	11/2021	Grab	Water	18	TWRI	RT

*Monitor type description can be found in table A9.1.

Model Description

Load Duration Curves

This is a simple and an effective first-step methodology to obtain data-based TMDLs (Cleland, 2003; Stiles, 2001). A duration curve is a graph that illustrates the percentage of time during which a given parameter's value is equaled or exceeded. For example, a flow duration curve (FDC) (Figure A6.2) uses the hydrograph of the observed stream flows to calculate and depict the percentage of time the flows are equaled or exceeded.

A LDC (example shown in Figure A6.3), which is related to the flow duration curve (FDC), shows the corresponding relationship between the contaminant loadings and stream flow conditions at the monitoring site. In this manner, it assists in determining patterns in pollution loading (point sources, nonpoint sources, erosion, etc.) depending on the streamflow conditions. Based on the observed patterns, specific restoration plans can be implemented that target a particular kind of pollutant source. For example, if the pollutant loads exceed the

allowable loads (see Figure A6.3) for low stream flow regimes, then the point sources such as wastewater treatment plants and direct deposition sources (wildlife, livestock) should be targeted for the restoration plans. Another main advantage of the LDC method is that it can also be used to evaluate the current impairment as some percent of samples which exceed the standard, and therefore it allows for the rapid development of TMDLs (Stiles, 2001). Figures A6.2 and A6.3 are examples of a FDC and LDC from a project that focused on the Plum Creek watershed.

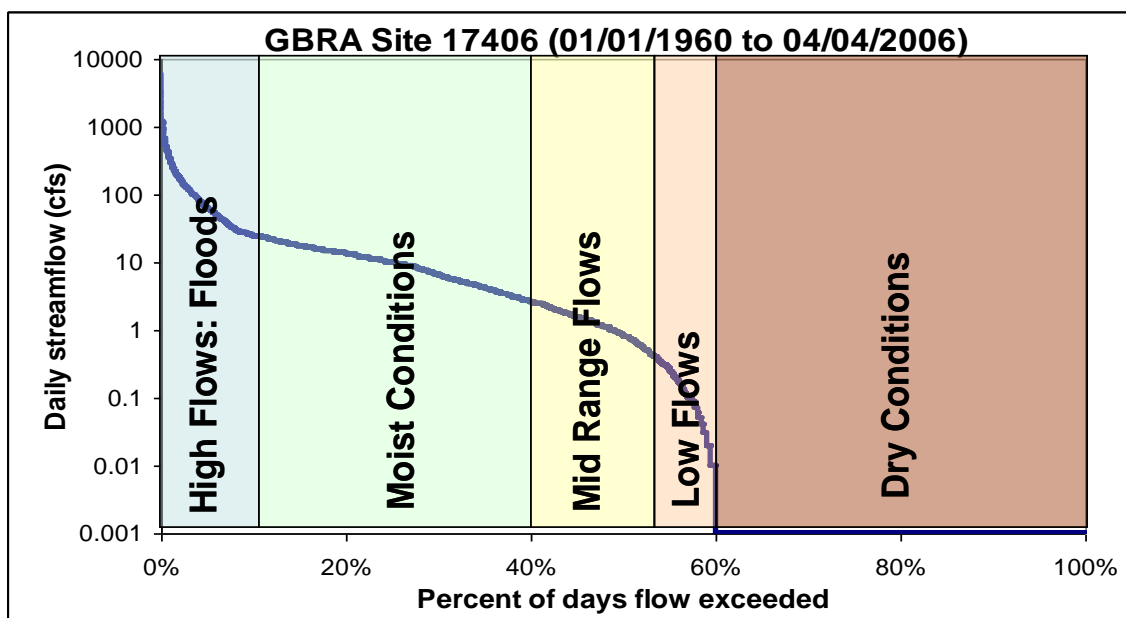


Figure A6.2. FDC for streamflow conditions at GBRA monitoring station 17406 on Plum Creek, near Uhland, TX. The flow data at 17406 was obtained from the nearest USGS gage station 8172400, after adjusting for subwatershed aerial contribution during runoff events.

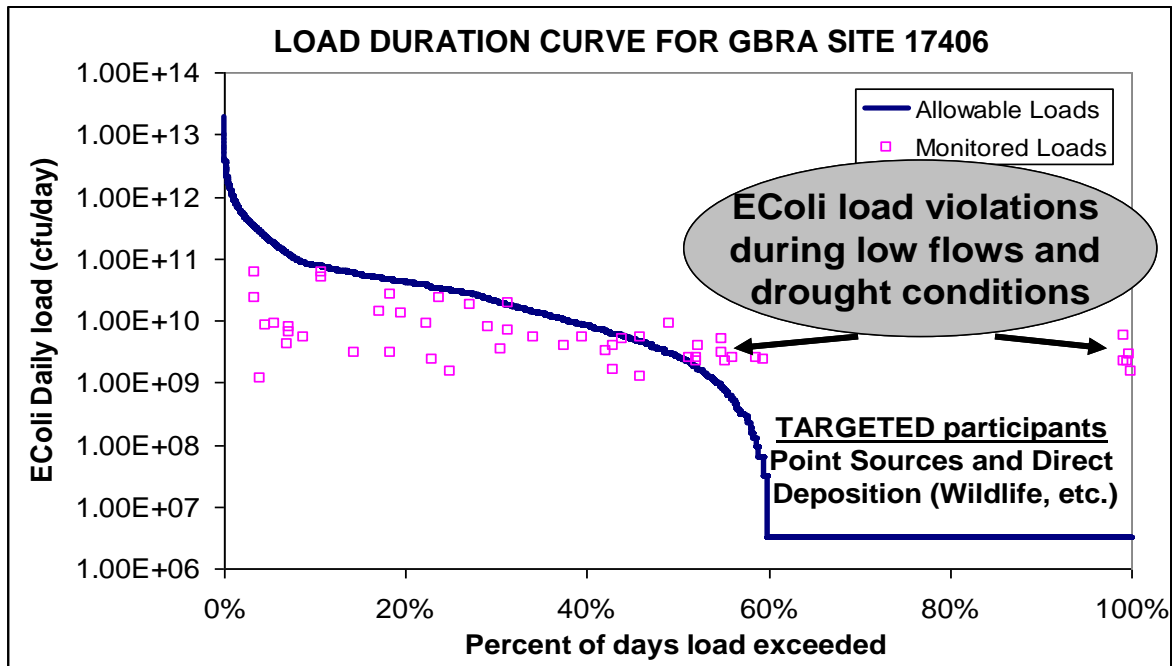


Figure A6.3. LDC for *E. coli* at GBRA monitoring station 17406 on Plum Creek, near Uhland, TX. The flow data at 17406 was obtained from the nearest USGS gage station 8172400, after adjusting for subwatershed aerial contribution during runoff events.

Section A7: Quality Objectives and Criteria for Data Quality

Personnel at TWRI will conduct water quality monitoring and a phased modeling effort to develop pollutant source and loading information and estimates of needed bacteria reductions. The objectives of the water quality modeling for this project are as follows:

The objectives for this project are as follows:

- 1) Develop and obtain approval for a QAPP
- 2) Collect environmental and water quality data to characterize causes and sources of pollution.
- 3) Update LDCs to analyze the temporal trends in the observed water quantity and quality data for the watershed. The LDCs will be updated using currently existing water quality and flow data available from the TCEQ SWQMIS Database and data generated through this project.
- 4) Reevaluate the exceedances and the required load-reductions of bacteria for different flow-rate regimes (low, medium, and high flow) using LDCs.

Surface Water Quality Monitoring (SWQM) – The goal of this section is to ensure that data collected meets the data quality objectives (DQOs) of the project. The objective of this project is to identify the level and specific sources of bacteria entering Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek.

Following are actions that will be undertaken by this project to assess bacterial pollution within Middle Yegua, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds:

- Monitor water quality as related to bacteria
- Model bacteria loading using LDCs

The measurement performance criteria to support the project objectives are specified in Table A7-1.

Consistent with the most recent version of the TCEQ *Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 1: Physical and Chemical Monitoring Methods* (TCEQ SOP, V1) (TCEQ 2012), routine grab samples will be collected on a monthly basis. During routine sampling measurements of DO, conductivity, pH, stream flow, and water temperature will be obtained *in situ*. These data will be logged on field data sheets and incorporated into a computer-based database maintained by TWRI.

Water samples collected will be transported to ATL for bacteria enumeration. TWRI will deliver water samples to ATL within designated holding times for respective analysis; ATL will use designated methods outlined in Tables A7.1, A7.2 and B2.1. Appropriate DQOs and QA/QC requirements for this analysis are also reported in Tables A7.1 and B2.1.

Ambient Water Reporting Limits (AWRLs)

The AWRL establishes the reporting specification at or below which data for a parameter must be reported to be compared with freshwater screening criteria. The AWRLs specified in Appendix A, Table A7.1 are the program-defined reporting specifications for bacteria and yield data acceptable for the TCEQ's water quality assessment. A full listing of AWRLs can be found at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/waterquality/crp/QA/awrlmaster.pdf>.

The limit of quantitation (LOQ) is the minimum level, concentration, or quantity of a target variable (e.g., target analyte) that can be reported with a specified degree of confidence by the laboratory analyzing the sample. Analytical results shall be reported down to the laboratory's LOQ (i.e., the laboratory's LOQ for a given parameter is its reporting limit).

The following requirements must be met in order to report results to TCEQ for inclusion in SWQMIS:

- The laboratory's LOQ for bacteria must be at or below the AWRL as a matter of routine practice

Laboratory Measurement Quality Control Requirements and Acceptability Criteria are provided in Section B5.

Precision

Precision is the degree to which a set of observations or measurements of the same property, obtained under similar conditions, conform to themselves. It is a measure of agreement among replicate measurements of the same property, under prescribed similar conditions, and is an indication of random error.

Laboratory precision is assessed by comparing replicate analyses of laboratory control samples (LCS) in the sample matrix (e.g. deionized water, sand, commercially available tissue) or sample/duplicate pairs in the case of bacterial analysis. Precision results are compared against measurement performance specifications and used during evaluation of analytical performance. Program-defined measurement performance specifications for precision are defined in Table A7.1.

Representativeness

Site selection, the appropriate sampling regime, the sampling of all pertinent media according to TCEQ SOP, V1, and use of only approved analytical methods will assure that the measurement data represents the conditions at the site. Routine data collected for water quality assessment are considered to be spatially and temporally representative of routine water quality conditions. Water Quality data are collected on a routine frequency and are separated by approximately even time intervals. At a minimum, samples are collected over at least two seasons (to include inter-seasonal variation) and over two years (to include inter-year variation) and include some data collected during an index period (March 15- October 15). For this project, monthly sampling will be conducted. Although data may be collected during varying regimes of weather and flow, the data sets will not be biased toward unusual

conditions of flow, runoff, or season. The goal for meeting total representation of the water body will be tempered by the potential funding for complete representativeness.

Comparability

Confidence in the comparability of routine data sets for this project and for water quality assessments is based on the commitment of project staff to use only approved sampling and analysis methods and QA/QC protocols in accordance with quality system requirements and as described in this QAPP and in TCEQ SOP, V1. Comparability is also guaranteed by reporting data in standard units, by using accepted rules for rounding figures, and by reporting data in a standard format as specified in the Data Management Plan Section B10.

Completeness

The completeness of the data is basically a relationship of how much of the data are available for use compared to the total potential data. Ideally, 100% of the data should be available. However, the possibility of unavailable data due to accidents, insufficient sample volume, broken or lost samples, etc. is to be expected. Therefore, it will be a general goal of the project(s) that 90% data completion is achieved.

Limit of Quantitation

AWRLs (Table A7.1) are used in this project as the *limit of quantitation specification*, so data collected under this QAPP can be compared against the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards. Laboratory *limits of quantitation* (Table A7.1) must be at or below the AWRL for each applicable parameter.

Laboratory Measurement Quality Control Requirements and Acceptability Criteria are provided in Section B5.

LDC – this approach has been utilized in several TMDL projects as an initial screening-tool to evaluate the actual temporal load trends in streams (Cleland, 2003; Stiles, 2001). In cases of violations, it is necessary to determine the required load-reduction in that region near the monitoring station. Load-reductions should be calculated for all flow-regimes of the stream. In order to do this continuous monitoring data will be simulated using the actual monitoring data by regression methods. Uncertainty of the model will be estimated via residual error analysis. The straight line passing through residual error plot should have a slope of zero.

Table A7.1. Measurement Performance Specifications

Table A7.1.

Bacteriological Parameters in Water											
Parameter	Units	Matrix	Method	Parameter Code	AWRL	LOQ	LOQ Check Sample %Rec	Precision (RPD of LCS/LCSD)	Bias %Rec. of LCS	Lab	Completeness (%)
<i>E. coli</i> , IDEXX	MPN/100 mL	water	9223 B	31699	1	1	NA	0.50*	NA	ATL	90

* This value is not expressed as a relative percent difference. It represents the maximum allowable difference between the logarithm of the result of a sample and the logarithm of the duplicate result. See Section B5.

References:
 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes, Manual #EPA-600/4-79-020
 American Public Health Association (APHA), American Water Works Association (AWWA), and Water Environment Federation (WEF), Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 20th Edition, 1998. (Note: The 21st edition may be cited if it becomes available.)
 TCEO SOP. V1 - TCEO Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 1: Physical and Chemical Monitoring Methods, 2012 (RG-415).

Table A7.2. Measurement Performance Specifications for Field Parameters

Parameter	Units	Matrix	Method	Parameter Code	AWRL *	Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)	Recovery at LOQ (%)	PRECISION (RPD of LCS/LCSD)	BIAS %Rec. of LCS	Completeness (%)
pH (standard units)	s.u.	water	SM4500 H ⁺ -B and TCEQ SOP V1	00400	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
Oxygen, dissolved	mg/L	water	SM4500 O-G and TCEQ SOP V1	00300	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
specific conductance, field (us/cm @ 25c)	uS/cm	water	SM2510 B and TCEQ SOP V1	00094	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
Temperature	degree C	water	SM2550 B and TCEQ SOP V1	00010	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
FLOW STREAM, INSTANTANEOUS (CUBIC FEET PER SEC)*	cfs	water	TCEQ SOP V1 And USGS 2013	00061	NA*	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
FLOW SEVERITY: 1=No Flow, 2=Low, 3=Normal, 4=Flood, 5=High, 6=Dry	NU	water	TCEQ SOP V1	01351	NA*	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
STREAM FLOW ESTIMATE (CFS)	cfs	water	TCEQ SOP V1	74069	NA*	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
FLOW MTH 1=GAGE 2=ELEC 3=MECH 4=WEIR/FLU 5=DOPPLER	NU	other	TCEQ SOP V1 and USGS 2013	89835	NA*	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
Secchi Depth	meters	water	TCEQ SOP V1	00078	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
Days since last significant rainfall	days	other	TCEQ SOP V1	72053	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
Depth of bottom of water body at sample site	meters	water	TCEQ SOP V1	82903	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
Maximum pool width	meters	water	TCEQ SOP V1	89864	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
Maximum pool depth	meters	water	TCEQ SOP V1	89865	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
Pool length in meters	meters	water	TCEQ SOP V1	89869	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90
Percentage the pool covers within a 500 meter reach	meters	water	TCEQ SOP V1	89870	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90

References:

* Reporting to be consistent with SWQM guidance and based on measurement capability.

American Public Health Association (APHA), American Water Works Association (AWWA), and Water Environment Federation (WEF), Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 20th Edition, 1998. (Note: The 21st edition may be cited if it becomes available.)

TCEQ SOP, V1 - TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 1: Physical and Chemical Monitoring Methods, 2012 (RG-415).

TCEQ SOP, V2 - TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 2: Methods for Collecting and Analyzing Biological Assemblage and Habitat Data, 2014 (RG-416).

Section A8: Special Training Requirements/Certification

Surface Water Quality Monitoring

Work conducted for this project is covered under and documented in this QAPP. Personnel conducting work associated with this project are deemed qualified to perform their work through educational credentials, specific job/task training, required demonstrations of competency, and internal and external assessments. Laboratories are NELAP-accredited as required. Records of educational credentials, training, demonstrations of competency, assessments, and corrective actions are retained by project management and are available for review.

Staff responsible for operating the field-use multi-parameter sondes and flow loggers will undergo training event by a qualified trainer (the equipment manufacturer, TCEQ SWQM personnel, an experienced field sampler, or the QA Officer). Training may also occur at set statewide training events, such as the annual SWQM Workshop.

Field personnel will receive training in proper sampling and field analysis. Before actual sampling or field analysis occurs, they will demonstrate to the QA officer (in the field), their ability to properly operate the field-use multi-parameter sondes and retrieve the samples. The QA officer will sign off each field staff in their field logbooks. Field personnel training is documented and retained in the personnel file, and will be available during a monitoring systems audit.

LDC Analyses

All personnel involved in model calibration, validation, and development will have the appropriate education and training required to adequately perform their duties. No special certifications are required.

Section A9: Documentation and Records

SWQM- Hard copies of general maintenance records, all field data sheets, chain of custody (COC) forms, laboratory data entry sheets, calibration logs, and corrective action reports (CARs) will be archived for at least five years. In addition, TWRI will archive electronic forms of all project data for at least five years. All electronic data are backed up on an external networked server. A blank CAR form is presented in Appendix A, a blank COC form is presented in Appendix C, and blank field data reporting forms are presented in Appendix B.

Laboratory Documentation

Test/data reports from the laboratory must document the test results clearly and accurately. Routine data reports should be consistent with the *TNI Volume 1, Module 2, Section 5.10* (2009) and include the information necessary for the interpretation and validation of data. The requirements for reporting data and the procedures are provided.

Reports of results of analytical tests performed by the laboratory contain the following elements:

- Title of report
- Name and address of the laboratory
- Name and address of the client
- A clear identification of the sample(s) analyzed (unique identifiers)
- Identification of method used
- Identification of samples that did not meet QA requirements (by use of data qualifiers)
- Sample results
- Units of measurement
- Sample matrix
- Station information
- Date and time of collection
- LOQ and limit of detection (LOD) (formerly referred to as the reporting limit and the method detection limit, respectively), and qualification of results outside the working range (if applicable)
- Certification of NELAP compliance
- Clearly identified subcontract laboratory results (as applicable)
- A name and title of the person accepting responsibility for the report
- Project-specific QC results

Upon completion of all analyses, ATL generates a Report Cover Page, a Laboratory Analysis Report, and a Quality Control Data Report. The chain of custody documentation, field data sheets, and subcontract laboratory reports (if applicable) are attached to form the final report. ATL reviews the report and submits it to the TWRI QAO for additional review. Upon final review by the TWRI QAO, the report is submitted to the TWRI PM for electronic submittal to SWQMIS.

Electronic Data

Data will be submitted to the TCEQ by TWRI in the event/result format specified in the most current version of the TCEQ DMRG for upload to SWQMIS. The DMRG can be found at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/data-management/dmrg_index.html. The Data Review Checklist and Summary as contained in Appendix D of this document will be submitted with the data.

All reported Events will have a unique TagID (see DMRG). TagIDs used in this project will be seven-character alphanumeric codes with the structure of the two-letter Tag prefix followed by a five-digit number: for example – TX01234, TX01235, etc.

Submitting Entity, Collecting Entity, and Monitoring Type codes will reflect the project organization and monitoring type in accordance with the DMRG. The proper coding of Monitoring Type is essential to accurately capture any bias toward certain environmental condition (for example, high flow events).

Table A9.1. SWQMIS Data Entry Codes

Sample Description	Tag Prefix	Submitting Entity	Collecting Entity	Monitoring Type
Routine Monitoring	TX	TX	WR	RT*

*RT: samples are scheduled in advance without intentionally trying to target any certain environmental condition. The sample is collected regardless of the conditions encountered.

Water quality monitoring data which are determined to meet spatial, temporal, and other sample collection and quality requirements necessary for 305(b)/303(d) assessment should be coded "RT". Additional details about the sampling considerations for the 305(b)/303(d) assessment are included in the *Guidance for Assessing and Reporting Surface Water Quality in Texas*. Data which do not meet applicable requirements should be coded "RTWD".

LDC Analyses- All records, including modeler's notebooks and electronic files, will be archived by TWRI for LDCs for at least five years. These records will document model testing, calibration, and evaluation and will include documentation of written rationale for selection of models, record of code verification (hand-calculation checks, comparison to other models), source of historical data, and source of new theory, calibration and sensitivity analyses results, and documentation of adjustments to parameter values due to calibration. Electronic data on the project computers and the network server are backed up daily to the network drive and weekly to an external hard drive and the PI's computer. In the event of a catastrophic systems failure, the tapes can be used to restore the data in less than one day's time. Data generated on the day of the failure may be lost, but can be reproduced from raw data in most cases.

Combined Project Documentation

Quarterly progress reports disseminated to the individuals listed in section A3 will note activities conducted in connection with the water quality modeling project, items or areas identified as potential problems, and any variations or supplements to the QAPP. Final reports on the updated LDC analysis will be developed.

CARs will be utilized when necessary (Appendix A). CARs will be maintained in an accessible location for reference at TWRI and will be disseminated to the individuals listed in section A3. CARs resulting in any changes or variations from the QAPP will be made known to pertinent project personnel and documented in updates or amendments to the QAPP.

All electronic data are backed up routinely. A blank CAR is presented in Appendix A and a blank COC form is presented in Appendix C. The TSSWCB may elect to take possession of records at the conclusion of the specified retention period.

Table A9.2. Project Documents and Records

Document/Record	Location	Retention	Form
QAPP, amendments, and appendices	TWRI	5 years	Electronic
QAPP distribution documentation	TWRI	5 years	Paper/Electronic
Corrective Action Reports (CARs)	TWRI/ATL	5 years	Paper/Electronic
Training Records	TWRI	5 years	Paper/Electronic
Field notebooks or field data sheets	TWRI	10 years	Paper/Electronic
Field equipment calibration/maintenance	TWRI	10 years	Paper/Electronic
Chain of custody records	TWRI/ATL	10 years	Paper/Electronic
Laboratory QA manuals	ATL	10 years	Paper/Electronic
Laboratory SOPs	ATL	5 years	Paper/Electronic
Laboratory procedures	ATL	5 years	Paper/Electronic
Instrument raw data files	ATL	10 years	Paper/Electronic
Instrument readings/printouts	ATL	10 years	Paper/Electronic
Laboratory data reports/results	ATL	10 years	Paper/Electronic
Laboratory equipment maintenance logs	ATL	10 years	Paper/Electronic
Laboratory calibration records	ATL	10 years	Paper/Electronic
Progress Reports/Final Reports	TWRI/TSSWCB	3 years	Electronic

Data Transfer between Entities

Data transfer between entities occurs via electronic means. Specific format of the data transferred depends on the specific data and includes ArcMap, MS Office, and PDF formats.

QAPP Revision and Amendments

Until the work described is completed, this QAPP shall be revised as necessary and reissued annually on the anniversary date, or revised and reissued within 120 days of significant changes, whichever is sooner. The last approved versions of QAPPs shall remain in effect until revised versions have been fully approved; the revision must be submitted to the TSSWCB for approval before the last approved version has expired. If the entire QAPP is current, valid, and accurately reflects the project goals and the organization's policy, the annual re-issuance may be done by a certification that the plan is current. This can be accomplished by submitting a cover letter stating the status of the QAPP and a copy of new, signed approval pages for the QAPP.

Amendments to the QAPP may be necessary to reflect changes in project organization, tasks, schedules, objectives and methods; address deficiencies and non-conformances; improve operational efficiency; and/or accommodate unique or unanticipated circumstances. Requests or amendments are directed from the TWRI Project Lead to the TSSWCB PM in writing. The changes are effective immediately upon approval by the TSSWCB PM and QAO, or their

designees. Amendments to the QAPP and the reasons for the changes will be documented, and copies of the approved QAPP Expedited Amendment form will be distributed to all individuals on the QAPP distribution list by the TWRI QAO. Amendments shall be reviewed, approved, and incorporated into a revised QAPP during the annual revision process.

Section B1: Sampling Process Design (Experimental Design)

SWQM- The sampling conducted for this project is intended to assess water quality in the Middle Yegua, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds. Sampling will be conducted on a monthly basis at two stations in the Deer Creek watershed and three stations in each of the Middle Yegua Creek and Davidson Creek watersheds for all constituents as directed by TCEQ SOP, V1. *E. coli* bacteria is the primary parameter of concern. Sampling types, frequencies and locations are described in Table A6.2. Physical parameters that will be measured *in situ* during routine sampling and include flow, specific conductance, DO, pH, and water temperature; other noted items will include the flow severity, days since last significant rainfall and present weather conditions. Water quality samples collected as part of the routine sampling schedule will be analyzed for bacteria as outlined in Table A7.1. If warranted, flow measurements made in waters deeper than 2.5 feet will be conducted as described in the U.S. Geological Survey's Measuring Discharge with Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers from a Moving Boat (USGS 2013) using a Son-Tek model M9 River Surveyor.

Flow data for TCEQ station 18349 in Davidson Creek will be recorded using data from USGS stream gage 08110100. Flow data for TCEQ station 11840 in Middle Yegua Creek will be collected using data from USGS stream gage 08109700. For TCEQ stations 11723 and 18644 in Deer Creek, streamflow estimates will be used to determine flow. Streamflow estimates, and eventually instantaneous streamflow readings will be acquired via water level measurements and established rating curves. The USGS Index Velocity Method (2012) and guidance described in TCEQ SOP V1 will be used to develop the rating curve. A Son-Tek model IQ Plus Acoustic Doppler Velocity Meter paired with Hobo Model U20L water level loggers will be used to obtain 15-minute frequency depth and flow estimates during the rating curve development period. These measurements will be validated, and the accuracy of the rating curve will be checked against instantaneous streamflow measurements collected during monthly monitoring events.

In order to obtain representative results, ambient water sampling will occur on a routine schedule over the course of 18 months, capturing dry and runoff-influenced events at their natural frequency. There will be no prejudice against rainfall or high flow events, except that the safety of the sampling crew will not be compromised in case of lightning or flooding; this is left up to the discretion of the sampling crew. In the instance that a sampling site is inaccessible, no sample will be taken and will be documented in the field notebook and the event will be made up at a later date when safe conditions return.

Site Descriptions

Monitoring will be conducted at eight stations that have been historically monitored by TCEQ. The eight stations are as follows:

Station 18750, Middle Yegua Creek at FM 696, is located immediately upstream of FM 696. This monitoring station is located on Segment 1212A.

Station 11840, Middle Yegua Creek at SH 21, is located 4.4 miles northeast of Lincoln. This monitoring station is located on Segment 1212A.

Station 11838, Middle Yegua Creek at SH 141, is located immediately upstream of FM 141 4 miles southeast of Dime. This monitoring station is located on Segment 1212A.

Station 11729, Davidson Creek at SH 21, is located immediately downstream of SH 21 0.5 miles northeast of Caldwell. This monitoring station is located on Segment 1211A.

Station 18349, Davidson Creek near FM 60, is a USGS station located 43 meters downstream of FM 60 near Lyons Texas. This monitoring station is located on Segment 1211A.

Station 21420, Davidson Creek at Burleson County Road 122, is located at County Road 122 in Burleson County. This monitoring station is located on Segment 1211A.

Station 11723, Deer Creek at SH 320, is located immediately downstream of SH 320 west of Marlin. This monitoring station is located on Segment 1242J.

Station 18644, Deer Creek at US 77, is located immediately downstream of US 77 south of Chilton and 1.2 km upstream of WWTP permit WQ0010811-001 outfall. This monitoring station is located on Segment 1242J.

The monitoring stations are included in Table A6.2. Detailed site location maps are located in Section A6.

LDC Analyses- Not relevant.

Section B2: Sampling Method Requirements / Data Collection Method

SWQM

Field Sampling Procedures

Field sampling will be conducted according to procedures documented in the latest version of the TCEQ SOP, V1. Additional aspects outlined in Section B below reflect specific requirements for sampling. Field sampling activities are documented on field data reporting forms as presented in Appendix B.

All sample information will be logged into a field log. The following will be recorded for all water sampling:

- station ID
- location
- sampling time
- date
- water depth
- flow rate
- sample collector's name/signature

Detailed observational data are recorded including water appearance, weather, biological activity, stream uses, unusual odors, specific sample information, days since last significant rainfall, estimated hours since rainfall began (if applicable), and flow severity. Perennial pool measurements will also be recorded with observations such as maximum pool width, maximum pool depth, pool length, and percent pool coverage in 500 meter reach.

Typically, water samples will be collected directly from the stream (midway in the stream channel) into approved sample containers.

Certificates from sample container manufacturers are maintained by ATL.

All sample containers will be labeled with the following information:

- collection date
- collection time
- sample location
- and sampler's initials

Care will be exercised to avoid the surface microlayer of water, which may be enriched with bacteria and not representative of the water column. In cases where, for safety reasons, it is inadvisable to enter the stream bed, and boat access is not practical, staff will use a clean bucket and rope from a bridge to collect the samples from the stream. If a bucket is used, care will be taken to avoid contaminating the sample. Specifically, technicians must exert care to ensure that the bucket and rope do not come into contact with the bridge. The bucket must be thoroughly rinsed three times between stations. Samples are collected from subsequent buckets of water. This type of sampling will be noted in the field records.

Water temperature, pH, specific conductivity, specific conductance, and DO will be measured and recorded *in situ* with a multiprobe whenever samples are collected. Flow is measured with

an electronic flow meter or using an established rating curve as described in the TCEQ SOP, V1, in USGS's Measuring Discharge with Acoustic Doppler Profilers from a Moving Boat (USGS 2013). All samples will be transported in an iced container to the laboratory for analysis.

Table B2.1. Storage, Preservation and Handling Requirements

Parameter	Matrix	Container**	Preservation	Sample Volume	Holding Time
<i>E. coli</i> *	Water	SPS	< 6°C (but not frozen); sodium thiosulfate	100 ml (minimum); 250 ml (duplicates)	8 hours

* *E.coli* samples should always be processed as soon as possible and within 8 hours.

**Container Types: SPS = Sterile Polyethylene

Sample Containers

The preferred bacteriological sample containers are the 120 and 290 mL bottles from QEC or IDEXX (or equivalent). The bottles contain sufficient sodium thiosulfate to remove 10 mg/L or 15 mg/L total chlorine, respectively. ATL will provide sealed, sterile glass and/or plastic bottles for bacteria samples.

Processes to Prevent Contamination

The most recent version of the TCEQ SOP, V1 outlines the necessary steps to prevent contamination of samples. These include: direct collection into sample containers, when possible. Field QC samples as discussed in Section B5 are collected to verify that contamination has not occurred.

Failures in Sampling Methods Requirements and/or Deviations from Sample Design and Corrective Action

Examples of failures in sampling methods and/or deviations from sample design requirements include but are not limited to such things as sample container problems, sample site considerations, etc. Failures or deviations from the QAPP are documented on the field data reporting form and reported to the TWRI PM. The project managers in consultation will determine if the deviation from the QAPP compromises the validity of the resulting data. The project managers, in consultation with the TWRI and TSSWCB PM and QAO, will decide to accept or reject data associated with the sampling event, based on best professional judgment. The resolution of the situation will be reported to the TSSWCB in the quarterly progress report (QPR).

LDC Analyses- Not relevant.

Section B3: Sample Handling and Custody Requirements

SWQM

Chain-of-Custody (COC)

Proper sample handling and custody procedures ensure the custody and integrity of samples beginning at the time of sampling and continuing through transport, sample receipt, preparation, and analysis.

A sample is in custody if it is in actual physical possession or in a secured area that is restricted to authorized personnel. The COC form is a record that documents the possession of the samples from the time of collection to receipt in the laboratory. The list of items below is included on the COC form (See Appendix C for sample form).

1. Date and time of sample collection, shipping and receiving
2. Site identification
3. Sample matrix
4. Number of containers
5. Preservative used
6. Analyses required
7. Name of collector
8. Custody transfer signatures and dates and time of transfer

Sample Labeling

Samples will be labeled on the container with an indelible, waterproof marker. Label information will include site identification, date, sampler's initials, and time of sampling. The COC form will accompany all sets of sample containers.

Sample Handling

Field data sheets (Appendix B) are supplied to all field personnel prior to initiation of collection procedures. The field data sheets have spaces dedicated to recording of all pertinent field observations and water quality parameters. The field staff has the prime responsibility to insure that all pertinent information is recorded correctly and in the proper units.

Upon collection, sealing of the sample and following proper labeling, water samples are placed in an insulated cooler on ice and transported to the designated lab along with appropriate COCs within prescribed holding times. Routine samples will be delivered to ATL for processing. Once at the lab, samples and COCs are transferred to lab staff, are logged into the lab and analysis/bench sheets specific to the respective laboratory are established for each sample. Samples are placed in a refrigerated cooler dedicated to sample storage until sample processing begins. The LM has the responsibility to ensure that holding times are met with water samples. The holding time is documented on the COC.

Sample Tracking

Proper sample handling and custody procedures ensure the custody and integrity of samples beginning at the time of sampling and continuing through transport, sample receipt, preparation, and analysis.

A sample is in custody if it is in actual physical possession or in a secured area that is restricted to authorized personnel. The COC form is used to document sample handling during transfer from the field to the laboratory and among contractors. The following information concerning the sample is recorded on the COC form (See Appendix C):

- Date and time of collection
- Site identification
- Sample matrix
- Number of containers
- Preservative used
- Was the sample filtered?
- Analyses required
- Name of collector
- Custody transfer signatures and dates and time of transfer
- Bill of lading (*if applicable*)

Sample Tracking Procedure Deficiencies and Corrective Action

All failures associated with chain-of-custody procedures as described in this QAPP are immediately reported to the TWRI PM. These include such items as delays in transfer, resulting in holding time violations; violations of sample preservation requirements; incomplete documentation, including signatures; possible tampering of samples; broken or spilled samples, etc. The TWRI PM, in consultation with the TWRI QAO, will determine if the procedural violation may have compromised the validity of the resulting data. Any failures that have reasonable potential to compromise data validity will invalidate data, and the sampling event should be repeated. The resolution of the situation will be reported to the TSSWCB PM in the project progress report. CARs will be prepared by the TWRI QAO and submitted to the TSSWCB PM along with project progress reports.

LDC Analyses- Not relevant.

Section B4: Analytical Methods

SWQM- The analytical methods are listed in Table A7.1 and A7.2 of Section A7. Laboratories must be accredited in accordance with NELAP requirements for the matrix, method, parameter combinations listed in Table A7.1 and A7.2 of the QAPP. Procedures for laboratory analysis will be in accordance with the most recently published or online edition of *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, the latest version of the TCEQ SOP, V1 or other reliable procedures acceptable to TCEQ.

Laboratories that produce analytical data under this QAPP must be NELAP accredited. Copies of laboratory quality manuals (QMs) and SOPs are available for review by the TCEQ.

Standards Traceability

All standards used in the field and laboratory are traceable to certified reference materials. Standards and reagent preparation is fully documented and maintained in a standards log book. Each documentation includes information concerning the standard or reagent identification, starting materials, including concentration, amount used and lot number; date prepared, expiration date and preparer's initials/signature. The bottle is labeled in a way that will trace the standard or reagent back to preparation. Standards or reagents used are documented each day samples are prepared or analyzed.

Analytical Method Deficiencies and Corrective Actions

Deficiencies in field and laboratory measurement systems involve, but are not limited to such things as instrument malfunctions, failures in calibration, blank contamination, quality control samples outside QAPP defined limits, etc. In many cases, the field technician or lab analyst will be able to correct the problem. If the problem is resolvable by the field technician or lab analyst, then they will document the problem on the field data sheet or laboratory record and complete the analysis. If the problem is not resolvable, then it is conveyed to ATL LM, who will make the determination and notify the TWRI QAO. If the analytical system failure may compromise the sample results, the resulting data will not be reported to the TCEQ SWQMIS database. The nature and disposition of the problem is reported on the data report. The TWRI PM/QAO will include this information in the CAR and submit it with the QPR, which is sent to the TSSWCB PM.

The definition of and process for handling deficiencies and deficiencies, non-conformances, and corrective action are defined in Section C1.

The TCEQ has determined that analyses associated with the qualifier codes (e.g. "holding time exceedance", "sample received unpreserved", "estimated value", etc.) may have unacceptable measurement uncertainty associated with them. Therefore, data with these types of problems should not be reported to the TCEQ. Additionally, any data collected or analyzed by means other than those stated in the QAPP must have an appropriate data qualifier assigned which can be found in the most recent version of the SWQM DMRG.

Failures in Measurement Systems and Corrective Actions

Failures in field and laboratory measurement systems involve, but are not limited to such things as instrument malfunctions, failures in calibration, blank contamination, QC samples outside QAPP defined limits, etc. In many cases, the field technician or lab analyst will be able to correct the problem. If the problem is resolvable by the field technician or lab analyst, then they will document the problem on the field data sheet or laboratory record and complete the analysis. If the problem is not resolvable, then it is conveyed to the ATL LM, who will make the determination in coordination with the TWRI PM/QAO. If the analytical system failure may compromise the sample results, the resulting data will not be reported to the TSSWCB as part of this project. The nature and disposition of the problem is reported on the data report. The TWRI PM/QAO will include this information in the CAR and submit with the QPR which is sent to the TSSWCB PM.

LDC Analyses- Not relevant.

Section B5: Quality Control Requirements

SWQM

Sampling Quality Control Requirements and Acceptability Criteria

The minimum Field QC Requirements are outlined in the TCEQ SWQM Procedures, Volume 1 (2012). Specific requirements are outlined below. These procedures were revised in 2014 to eliminate the requirement for a Field Split. Field blanks are also not required for bacteriological samples.

Table B5.1. Required Quality Control Analyses

Parameter		Matrix		LCS	Lab Dup	Field Blank	Method Blank
<i>E. coli</i>		<i>Water</i>		NA	√	NA	√

Laboratory Measurement Quality Control Requirements and Acceptability Criteria

Batch

A batch is defined as environmental samples that are prepared and/or analyzed together with the same process and personnel, using the same lot(s) of reagents. A **preparation batch** is composed of one to 20 environmental samples of the same NELAP-defined matrix, meeting the above mentioned criteria and with a maximum time between the start of processing of the first and last sample in the batch to be 25 hours. An **analytical batch** is composed of prepared environmental samples (extract, digestate, or concentrates) which are analyzed together as a group. An analytical batch can include prepared samples originating from various environmental matrices and can exceed 20 samples.

Method Specific QC requirements

QC samples, other than those specified later this section, are run (e.g., sample duplicates, surrogates, internal standards, continuing calibration samples, interference check samples, positive control, negative control, and media blank) as specified in the methods. The requirements for these samples, their acceptance criteria or instructions for establishing criteria, and corrective actions are method-specific.

Detailed laboratory QC requirements and corrective action procedures are contained within the individual laboratory QMs. The minimum requirements that all participants abide by are stated below.

Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)

The laboratory will analyze a calibration standard (if applicable) at the LOQ listed in Table A7.1 and A7.2 on each day calibrations are performed. In addition, an LOQ check sample will be analyzed with each analytical batch. Calibrations including the standard at the LOQ will meet the calibration requirements of the analytical method or corrective action will be implemented.

Laboratory Duplicates

A laboratory duplicate is prepared by taking aliquots of a sample from the same container under laboratory conditions and processed and analyzed independently. For most parameters except bacteria, precision is evaluated using the relative percent difference (RPD) between duplicate LCS results as defined by 100 times the difference (range) of each duplicate set, divided by the average value (mean) of the set. For duplicate results, X_1 and X_2 , the RPD is calculated from the following equation:

$$RPD = \frac{|X_1 - X_2|}{\left(\frac{X_1 + X_2}{2}\right)} \times 100$$

For bacteriological parameters, precision is evaluated using the results from laboratory duplicates. Bacteriological duplicates are collected on a 10% frequency (or once per sampling run, whichever is more frequent). These duplicates will be collected in sufficient volume (200 mL or more) for analysis of the sample and its laboratory duplicate from the same container.

The base-10 logarithms of the result from the original sample and the result from its duplicate will be calculated. The absolute value of the difference between the two logarithms will be calculated, and that difference will be compared to the precision criterion in Table A7.1.

If the difference in logarithms is greater than the precision criterion, the data are not acceptable for use under this project and will not be reported to TCEQ. Results from all samples associated with that failed duplicate (usually a maximum of 10 samples) will be considered to have excessive analytical variability and will be qualified as not meeting project QC requirements.

The precision criterion in Table A7.1 for bacteriological duplicates applies only to samples with concentrations > 10 MPN/100mL. Field splits will not be collected for bacteriological analyses.

Matrix Spike (MS)

Matrix spikes are prepared by adding a known mass of target analyte to a specified amount of matrix sample for which an independent estimate of target analyte concentration is available.

Matrix spikes indicate the effect of the sample on the precision and accuracy of the results generated using the selected method. The frequency of matrix spikes is specified by the analytical method, or a minimum of one per preparation batch, whichever is greater. To the extent possible, matrix spikes prepared and analyzed over the course of the project should be performed on samples from different sites.

The components to be spiked shall be as specified by the mandated analytical method. The results from matrix spikes are primarily designed to assess the validity of analytical results in a given matrix, and are expressed as percent recovery (%R).

The percent recovery of the matrix spike is calculated using the following equation, where %R is percent recovery, S_{SR} is the concentration measured in the matrix spike, S_R is the concentration in the unspiked sample, and S_A is the concentration of analyte that was added:

$$\%R = \frac{S_{SR} - S_R}{S_A} \times 100$$

Matrix spike recoveries are compared to the same acceptance criteria established for the associated LCS recoveries, rather than the matrix spike recoveries published in the mandated test method. The EPA 1993 methods (i.e. ammonia-nitrogen, ion chromatography, TKN) that establish matrix spike recovery acceptance criteria are based on recoveries from drinking water that has very low interferences and variability. If the matrix spike results are outside laboratory-established criteria, there will be a review of all other associated quality control data in that batch. If all of quality control data in the associated batch passes, it will be the decision of the TWRI QAO or TWRI PM to report the data for the analyte that failed in the parent sample to TCEQ or to determine that the result from the parent sample associated with that failed matrix spike is considered to have excessive analytical variability and does not meet project QC requirements.

Method Blank

A method blank is a sample of matrix similar to the batch of associated samples (when available) that is free from the analytes of interest and is processed simultaneously with and under the same conditions as the samples through all steps of the analytical procedures, and in which no target analytes or interferences are present at concentrations that impact the analytical results for sample analyses. The method blanks are performed at a rate of once per preparation batch. The method blank is used to document contamination from the analytical process. The analysis of method blanks should yield values less than the LOQ. For very high-level analyses, the blank value should be less than 5% of the lowest value of the batch, or corrective action will be implemented. Samples associated with a contaminated blank shall be evaluated as to the best corrective action for the samples (e.g. reprocessing or data qualifying codes). In all cases the corrective action must be documented.

The method blank shall be analyzed at a minimum of once per preparation batch. In those instances for which no separate preparation method is used (example: volatiles in water) the batch shall be defined as environmental samples that are analyzed together with the same method and personnel, using the same lots of reagents, not to exceed the analysis of 20 environmental samples.

Quality Control or Acceptability Requirement Deficiencies and Corrective Actions

Sampling QC excursions are evaluated by the TWRI PM, in consultation with the TWRI QAO. In that differences in sample results are used to assess the entire sampling process, including environmental variability, the rejection of results based on pre-determined limits may not be necessary for project purposes. Therefore, the professional judgment of the TWRI PM and QAO will be relied upon in evaluating results.

Field blanks for trace elements and trace organics are not required for this project, as analyses for trace elements and trace organics are not required for this project.

Equipment blanks for metals analysis are not required for this project, as metals analysis is not included in the scope of the project.

The requirements for Field Split analysis were removed from the SWQM Procedures in 2014.

Laboratory measurement quality control failures are evaluated by the laboratory staff. The disposition of such failures and the nature and disposition of the problem is reported to the ATL QAO. The Laboratory QAO will discuss with the TWRI PM. If applicable, the TWRI PM will include this information in the CAR and submit with the Progress Report which is sent to the TSSWCB PM.

The definition of and process for handling deficiencies, nonconformance, and corrective action are defined in Section C1.

Failures in Quality Control and Corrective Action

Notations of blank contamination will be noted in QPRs and the final report. Corrective action will involve identification of the possible cause (where possible) of the contamination failure. Any failure that has potential to compromise data validity will invalidate data, and the sampling event should be repeated. The resolution of the situation will be discussed with pertinent project PMs and QAOs. The TWRI PM and QAO will include this information in the CAR and submit with the Progress Report which is sent to the TSSWCB PM.

LDC Analyses- Not relevant.

Section B6: Equipment Testing, Inspection, & Maintenance Requirements

SWQM

All sampling equipment testing and maintenance requirements are detailed in the most recent version of the TCEQ SOP, V1. Sampling equipment is inspected and tested upon receipt and is assured appropriate for use. Equipment records are kept on all field equipment and a supply of critical spare parts is maintained.

All laboratory tools, gauges, instrument, and equipment testing and maintenance requirements are contained within laboratory QM(s).

LDC Analyses- Not relevant.

Section B7: Instrument Calibration and Frequency

SWQM- In-stream field equipment calibration requirements are contained in the most recent version of the TCEQ SOP, V1 or manufacturers manuals. Equipment will be tested, maintained, inspected, and calibrated according to these procedures. Post calibration error limits and the disposition resulting from error are adhered to. Data not meeting post-error limit requirements invalidates associated data collected subsequent to the pre-calibration and are not submitted to the TCEQ.

Detailed laboratory calibrations are contained within the laboratory QM(s), SOPs, and manufacturers manuals as appropriate and will be tested, maintained, inspected, and calibrated according to these procedures.

LDC Analyses- Not relevant.

Section B8: Inspection/Acceptance Requirements for Supplies and Consumables

SWQM- New batches of supplies are tested before use to verify that they function properly and are not contaminated. The laboratory QM provides additional details on acceptance requirements for laboratory supplies and consumables.

LDC Analyses- Not relevant.

Section B9: Data Acquisition Requirements (Non-direct Measurements)

SWQM- Water quality data available in TCEQ's SWQMIS will be used as historical references for instream water quality and conditions. US Geologic Survey (USGS) flow data available in the watersheds may also be useful for evaluating instream conditions. These data will support the development of trend analysis during the waterbody assessment. This is the only water quality data collected outside this project that will be utilized.

Table B9.1. Monitoring Data Sources

Data Type	Monitoring Project/Program	Collecting Entity	Dates of Collection	QA Information	Data Use(s)
Monitoring Data	TCEQ SWQM Program	TCEQ	9/1/1990 - Current at stations historically monitored by TCEQ in Table A6.2	TCEQ SWQM QAPP; SWQMIS database	summary statistics, trend analysis
Flow Data	United States Geological Survey (USGS) flow data	USGS	For the period of record collected by the USGS at stations in Table A6.2	USGS QAPP; USGA database	Flow measurements
Precipitation Data	National Weather Service (NWS)	NWS	Most up-to-date precipitation data will be downloaded from the NWS website	NWS Website	Days since last precipitation

Any non-direct measurements will comply with all requirements under this QAPP. Sampling conducted by the TCEQ and USGS is not covered under this QAPP and will not be reported to the TSSWCB PM by the TWRI. However, data collected by the above organizations that meet the data quality objectives of this project will be useful in satisfying the data and informational needs of the project. The collection and qualification of the TCEQ and USGS data are addressed in the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring QAPP. Parameters utilized will include instantaneous stream flow, temperature, pH, specific conductivity, DO, and *E. coli* as available. Potential sources where data will be acquired from are included in Table B9.1. No limitations will be placed on these data as they have been vetted by the TCEQ SWQM Data Management and Assessment Team and were collected under a TCEQ approved QAPP.

Only data collected directly under this QAPP will be submitted to the TCEQ for storage in SWQMIS. This project will not submit any acquired or non-direct measurement data to SWQMIS that has been or is going to be collected under another QAPP. All data collected under this QAPP and any acquired or non-direct measurements will comply with all requirements/guidance of the project.

LDC Analyses- The LDCs will be updated using currently existing water quality and flow data available from the TCEQ SWQMIS Database and data generated through this project.

All data used in the modeling procedures for this project are collected in accordance with approved quality assurance measures under TCEQ, Texas Water Development Board, USDA, National Weather Service, or U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS).

GIS Inventory

Geospatial data available from various local, regional, state, and federal organizations may be used for cartographic purposes. Maps developed for reports will be for illustrative purposes. Geospatial data utilized in maps of the study area may include land use, precipitation, soil type, ecoregion, TCEQ monitoring location, TCEQ permitted outfall, gage location, city/county/state boundary, stream hydrology, reservoir, drought, road, watershed, municipal separate storm sewer system, urbanized area, basin, railroad, recreational area, area landmark, aerial photography, and park information. The above data comes from the following reliable sources: USGS, TNRS, TCEQ, TXDOT, TSSWCB, TWDB, and US Census Bureau. Geospatial data from these sources are accepted for use in updating this project maps based on the reputability of these data sources and the fact that there are no known comparable sources for these data. Geospatial data will be cited in reports.

Other data that are compiled and published by other entities may also be used in preparing project reports. This may include long-term precipitation, census, ecoregion, land use and land cover, historic water quality and stream flow data. Sources of these data are the USGS, National Weather Service, US Census Bureau, USDA NRCS, TCEQ, and TPWD. Data collected by these entities are assumed to have been verified and validated according to the requirements of the respective programs. Data compilations created for this project will be visually screened for errors. Data will be cited in reports.

Table B9.2 lists the type of measurement, data, units, source, QA documentation use and data range of each acquired data set where applicable.

Because most historical data is of known and acceptable quality and were collected and analyzed in a manner comparable and consistent with needs for this project, no limitations will be placed on their use, except where known deviations have occurred.

Table B9.2. Non-Direct Data Types and Data Sources for the Waterbodies in Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek watersheds

Type of Measurement or Analysis	Type of Data (time series, rate, constant, statistic, taxa, etc.)	Units	Source (weblink when available)	Quality Assurance Documentation	Use	Date Range
Streamflow	Time series, daily streamflow	Average daily (cfs)	USGS http://waterdata.usgs.gov/tx/nwis/sw	Data noted as "Approved" (quality-assured data) or "Provisional" (of unverified accuracy and subject to revision). More recent "provisional" data may be used in the project after thorough review. "Approved" data have successfully undergone USGS quality assurance.	FDCs	All data available
<i>E. coli</i> , specific conductance, nitrate, phosphorous, DO, instantaneous flow	Concentration at various points in time	CFU or MPN/100mL for bacteria; μ mhos/cm for spec. cond; ppm for nutrients; mg/L for DO, cfs for flow	TCEQ SWQMIS http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/data-management/wdma_forms.html	Data requested will include only data that met quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) requirements as outlined under the SWQM Data Management Reference Guide.	LDCs	most recent 7 years; or 10 years if insufficient data exists
TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Stations	Spatial data, location of active and historical SWQM stations	Shapefile - Points	TCEQ GIS Site Layers Download Page http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/sites.html	Data Management Reference Guide (DMRG) for Surface Water Quality Monitoring http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/data-management/dmrg_index.html	Map development and FDCs/LDCs	N/A
TCEQ Segments	Spatial data, official TCEQ Segments	Shapefile - Polylines	TCEQ GIS Hydrology Layers http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/hydro.html	TCEQ 2010 Stream Segments Metadata http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/gis/metadata/stream_segments.pdf	Map development	N/A
County Boundaries	Spatial data, StratMap Boundaries	Shapefile - Polygons	TNRIS Data Search & Download http://www.tnris.org/	Metadata available with download	Map development	N/A
Watershed topography	Spatial GIS data, Digital Elevation Models (DEMs)	Raster- 10 meter resolution	National Elevation Data set from USGS National Map Viewer https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/tm-delivery/	Digital Elevation Model Technologies and Applications: The DEM Users Manual 2nd Edition	Delineation of watershed and subwatershed boundaries for maps	N/A

Type of Measurement or Analysis	Type of Data (time series, rate, constant, statistic, taxa, etc.)	Units	Source (weblink when available)	Quality Assurance Documentation	Use	Date Range
Land Use/Land Cover	National Land Cover Data set – GIS raster data set	Raster – 30 m resolution	National Land Cover Database 2016 (NLCD2016) from MRLC Consortium Viewer: https://www.mrlc.gov/data/nlcd-2016-land-cover-conus	Yang, L., Jin, S., Danielson, P., Homer, C., Gass, L., Costello, C., Dewitz, J., Fry, J., Funk, M., Grannemann, B., Rigge, M. and G. Xian. 2018. https://www.mrlc.gov/data/references/national-land-cover-database-2016-landcover-imperviousness-nlcd2016 <i>A New Generation of the United States National Land Cover Database: Requirements, Research Priorities, Design, and Implementation Strategies</i> , p. 108 – 123.	Map development	Based on Landsat imagery between 2001 and 2016
Soil Map Unit Boundaries and Properties	Spatial GIS data, Soils	Shapefile - polygons	NRCS SSURGO databases via Web Soil Survey http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/Ho mePage.htm or Geospatial Data Gateway http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/	SSURGO/STATSGO2 Structural Metadata and Documentation http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/ref/?cid=nrcs142p2_053631	Map development	various
Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)	Individual events	Location and amount (gallons)	TCEQ Regions 9 & 11 Excel database provided upon request by regional staff	Data entry based on reported occurrences, Level of QA unknown	Quantify reported SSOs	2015-2021
Municipal & Industrial WWTF Discharge Monitoring Reports	Self-reporting monthly discharge and concentration data	concentration bacteria (MPN/100mL or colonies/100mL), flow (MGD)	USEPA Enforcement & Compliance History Online (ECHO) website http://echo.epa.gov/echo/ or directly from permitted facilities	Reporting data based on permit requirements	Source analysis; FDCs/LDCs	2000 - present for presently active permits
General permits involving regulation of stormwater	Regulated entities	N/A	TCEQ Information Resources Division Central Registry http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/wq_dpa/index.cfm	None accessible; TCEQ databases	Determination of regulated stormwater for TMDL development	2000 - present
Water Rights Diversion Points	Spatial GIS and Tabular Data	N/A	TCEQ https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr-permitting/wrwud	None accessible; TCEQ databases	Understanding uses of surface water in the watershed	2013

Type of Measurement or Analysis	Type of Data (time series, rate, constant, statistic, taxa, etc.)	Units	Source (weblink when available)	Quality Assurance Documentation	Use	Date Range
Urbanized Areas	Spatial GIS	Shapefile - polygons	U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line® Shapefiles http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/geo/shapefiles2010/main and information from municipalities	Urban-Rural Classification Program http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/urban-rural.html	Map development; define regulated stormwater	2010
Population	Spatial GIS and tabular data	2010 Census blocks, Shapefile – polygons	US Census Bureau, 2010 TIGER/Line® Shapefiles download interface http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/geo/shapefiles2010/main ; Tabular data from US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml	Metadata available with download	Map and source development	2010
Building locations	Spatial GIS, point data	Shapefile - points	Brazos Valley and Heart of Texas Councils of Government 911 address shapefiles	Programmatic	Map and source development, OSSF estimations	N/A
Hydrography	Vector GIS data	Geodatabase – points, polylines, polygons	National Hydrography Data set (NHD)Pre-staged Subregions http://nhd.usgs.gov/data.html	NHD Program Documentation http://nhd.usgs.gov/program_documentation.html	Map development	N/A
Livestock population estimates	County-level livestock density	County level individual animals	USDA Census of Agriculture http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/	Regulations Guiding NASS http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/About_the_Census/Regulations_Guiding_NASS/index.php	Map and source development	2007-2017 (when available)
Deer	Spatial wildlife density	Density (animal per unit area)	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department surveys and/or information from biologists	Jester & Dillard (undated)	Source development	N/A
Cats and dogs	Spatial, pet density	number per household	AVMA 2002 U.S. Pet Ownership data and stakeholder input	[AVMA] American Veterinary Medical Association. 2002. U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Source Book.Schaumburg (Illinois): Center for Information Management, American Veterinary Medical Association.	Source development	N/A

Type of Measurement or Analysis	Type of Data (time series, rate, constant, statistic, taxa, etc.)	Units	Source (weblink when available)	Quality Assurance Documentation	Use	Date Range
Feral hogs	Spatial feral animal density	Feral hog density (animals per unit area)	TWRI, http://twri.tamu.edu/reports/2009/tr347.pdf TPWD, literature values and stakeholder input	Mellish et al. 2013.	Source development	N/A
Water and sewer service areas	Spatial GIS data	Shapefile - polygons	TCEQ GIS Regulatory/ Administrative Boundaries, Water & Sewer Certificates of Convenience and Necessity Service Areas, https://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/water/utilities/gis.aspx	None accessible; PUC databases	Map and source development	Present
Population projections	Tabular data, organized by Region, includes Census 2010 data and population projections for 2020 - 2070	Water User Group (WUG)	TWDB Water Planning, 2017 State Water Plan Projections Data, DRAFT https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/2017/popproj.asp	Projection Methodology – Draft Population and Municipal Water Demands, http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/methodology/doc/2017methodology.pdf?d=7281.70000021374	Map and source development, LDC	2010 -2070
Air temperature and precipitation	Daily time series and monthly and annual normal values	Air Temperature (°C or °F), Precipitation (mm or inches)	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/	NOAA Information Quality Guidelines, http://www.cio.noaa.gov/services_programs/info_quality.html	Summarize past and current weather conditions for reports	1972 - 2012
Average annual air temperature and precipitation	Spatial GIS data	Raster – 800 m resolution	PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, 30-arcsec NORMALS http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/	PRISM Climate Group, Documentation FGDC Metadata http://prism.oregonstate.edu/documentation/PRISM_datasets.pdf	Map development	1981 -2010

Section B10: Data Management

Data Management Process

Samples are collected by field staff and delivered to the laboratory for analyses as described in Sections B1 and B2. Sampling information (e.g. site location, date, time, sampling depth, etc.) is used to generate a unique sampling event in alphanumeric format by TWRI into a Microsoft Access database. Measurement results from the field data sheets are manually entered by field personnel into the TWRI database for their corresponding event. Data generated by the lab are entered on to the lab data sheets which are then transferred to TWRI. TWRI staff will enter these lab data into their database for the corresponding event. Customized data entry forms facilitate accurate data entry. Following data verification and validation by the TWRI DM, the data are exported from the TWRI database into the pipe delimited Event/Result format required for submission to TCEQ's SWQMIS (as described in the SWQM DMRG December 2016 or later version). Once TCEQ approval of the data is obtained, the data are loaded into SWQMIS by TCEQ data managers.

Personnel

Dr. Allen Berthold is the TWRI Project Lead and is responsible for overseeing and supervising the project as well as the rest of the project team at TWRI.

Ms. Stephanie deVilleneuve is the TWRI PM and will provide overall project management for TWRI. She is responsible for ensuring that the data are managed according to the data management plan and QAPP.

Dr. Lucas Gregory the TWRI QAO is responsible for ensuring that project data are scientifically valid, legally defensible, of known precision, accuracy and integrity, meet the data quality objectives of the project, and are reportable to TSSWCB.

Mr. Ed Rhodes is the TWRI Field Supervisor/Data Manager and is responsible for ensuring the use of appropriate data collection techniques in the field, its proper documentation on field data sheets and the timely delivery of samples to the appropriate lab. He is also responsible for data storage, processing and delivery to TSSWCB.

Hardware and Software Requirements

Hardware configurations are sufficient to run Microsoft Access 2010 or newer under the Windows 7 or newer operating system in a networked environment. Information Technology (IT) staff are responsible for assuring hardware configurations meet the requirements for running current and future data management/database software as well as providing technical support. Software development and database administration are also the responsibility of the IT department.

The types of TWRI computer equipment, hardware, and software to be used on the project are provided below. Data for this project will be submitted to TSSWCB using Excel workbooks, Word documents, and GIS files both in a format and using media compatible with TSSWCB systems.

Table B10.1. Listing of Project Hardware and Software

Equipment & software name	Type	Number	Specification	Use
Dell or Lenovo PC Computers	Hardware	2	P4, CPU 3.2 GHz, 2 GB Ram, Windows 7 professional or higher	Support data gathering, data analysis, and report generation.
HP Proliant DL 180 G6 Server	Hardware	1	Intel Xeon CPU 3.0GHz, 1GB RAM Windows Server	Primary Server
HP Proliant DL 180 G6 Server	Hardware	1	Intel Xeon CPU 3.0GHz, 1GB RAM Windows Server	Secondary Server
ArcGIS 10.3 or higher	Software	1	Window interface	Development of maps and spatial analyses
IBM SPSS 21 or higher	Software	1	Window interface	Creation of historical bacteria database; statistical tests on seasonality
Microsoft Office 2016 Software (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)	Software	3	Windows platform	Data preparation, report writing, presentations

Data Handling

Data are processed using the Microsoft Access 2010 or newer suite of tools and applications. Data integrity is maintained by the implementation of password protections which control access to the database and by limiting update rights to a select user group. No data from external sources are maintained in the database. The database administrator is responsible for assigning user rights and assuring database integrity.

Data Dictionary

Terminology and field descriptions are included in the most recent version of the *SWQM Data Management Reference Guide*. For the purposes of verifying which entity codes are included in this QAPP, the following will be used when submitting data under this QAPP:

Tag Prefix: TX - Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Submitting Entity: TX - Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Collecting Entity: WR- Texas Water Resources Institute

Data Errors and Loss

To prevent loss of data and minimize errors, all data generated under this QAPP are verified against the appropriate quality assurance checks as defined in the QAPP, including but not limited to chain of custody procedures, field sampling documentation, laboratory analysis results, and quality control data.

Automated and manual Data Reviews are performed prior to data transmittal to TCEQ. Examples of checks that are used to review for data errors and data loss include:

- Parameter codes are contained in the QAPP
- Sites are in the QAPP Coordinated Monitoring Schedule
- Transcription or input errors
- Count of reported analytes (ex: # pH = # DO = # Temperature)
- Significant figures
- Values are at or above the LOQs
- Values are below the highest standard of the calibration curve, and appropriate dilutions (if necessary) have been used
- Check for outliers
- Use of correct reporting units
- Flows should have a flow method associated with the data
- If flow severity = 1, then flow = 0
- If flow severity = 6, then no value is reported for flow
- Depth of surface sample is reported
- Data not meeting post-cal requirements
- Post-calibration error limits for multiprobe instrumentation (Table 8.3 in SWQM PM)

Data exceeding holding times, improperly preserved samples, and estimated concentrations have unacceptable measurement uncertainty associated with them. This uncertainty will immediately disqualify analyses for submittal to SWQMIS. Therefore, data with these types of issues are not reported to the TCEQ and will be noted in the Data Summary Report.

All data is uploaded to the SWQMIS User Acceptance Test environment, and a validator report is generated. The validator report is reviewed and any issues are corrected prior to the data being transmitted to the TCEQ.

Archives/Data Retention

Complete original data sets are archived on permanent paper and electronic media and retained on-site by TWRI for a retention period specified in section A9.

Record-keeping and Data Storage

TWRI record keeping and document control procedures are contained in the water quality sampling and SOPs and this QAPP. Original field and laboratory data sheets are stored in the TWRI offices in accordance with the record-retention schedule in Section A9. Electronic copies of the data sheets are also maintained on network servers, external drives and personal

computers. The database backed up following each data entry event on network servers, external drives and personal computers. If necessary, disaster recovery will be accomplished by information resources staff using the backup database.

Data Verification/Validation

The control mechanisms for detecting and correcting errors and for preventing loss of data during data reduction, data reporting, and data entry are contained in Sections D1, D2, and D3.

Forms and Checklists

See Appendix B for the Field Data Reporting Form.

See Appendix C for the Chain-of-Custody Form

See Appendix D for the Data Review Checklist and Summary.

Data Dissemination

At the conclusion of the project, the TWRI Project Leader will provide a copy of the complete project electronic spreadsheet via recordable media to the TSSWCB PM, along with the final report. The TSSWCB may elect to take possession of all project records. However, summaries of the data will be presented in the final project report.

Section C1: Assessments and Response Actions

The following table presents types of assessments and response actions for data collection and analysis activities applicable to the QAPP and all facets of the project.

Table C1.1. Assessments and Response Actions

Assessment Activity	Approximate Schedule	Responsible Party	Scope	Response Requirements
Status Monitoring Oversight, etc.	Continuous	TWRI	Monitor project status and records to ensure requirements are being fulfilled. Monitoring & review performance & data quality	Report to TSSWCB in QPR.
Equipment testing	As needed	ATL/TWRI	Pass/Fail equipment testing	Repair or replace
Data completeness	As needed	ATL/TWRI	Assess samples analyzed vs. planned analysis	Reanalyze or amend objectives
Laboratory Inspections	TBD by TSSWCB	TSSWCB	Analytical and QC procedures in the laboratory	45 days to respond to TSSWCB with corrective actions
Technical systems audit	As needed	TSSWCB	Assess compliance with QAPP; review facility and data management as they relate to the project	45 days to respond to TSSWCB with corrective actions
Monitoring Systems Audit	Once per life of project	TSSWCB	Assess compliance with QAPP; review field sampling and data management as they relate to the project	45 days to respond to TSSWCB with corrective actions

In-house review of data quality and staff performance to assure that work is being performed in compliance with the QAPP will be conducted by all entities. If review show that the work is not being performed according to standards, immediate corrective action will be implemented. CARs will be submitted to TSSWCB and documented in the project QPRs.

The TSSWCB QAO (or designee) will conduct an audit of the field or technical systems activities for this project as needed. Each entity will have the responsibility for initiating and implementing response actions associated with findings identified during the on-site audit. Once the response actions have been implemented, the TSSWCB QAO (or designee) may perform a follow-up audit to verify and document that the response actions were implemented effectively. Records of audit findings and corrective actions are maintained by the TSSWCB PM and TWRI QAO. Corrective action documentation will be submitted to the TSSWCB PM with the progress report. If audit findings and corrective actions cannot be resolved, then the authority and responsibility for terminating work is specified in agreements or contracts between participating organizations.

Corrective Action Process for Deficiencies

Deficiencies are any deviation from the QAPP, TCEQ SOP, V1, DMRG, or lab QMs or SOPs. Deficiencies may invalidate resulting data and may require corrective action. Corrective action may require for samples to be discarded and re-collected. Deficiencies are documented in logbooks, field data sheets, etc. by field or laboratory staff. It is the responsibility of each respective entity's Project Leader or PM, in consultation with the TWRI QAO, to ensure that the actions and resolutions to the problems are documented and that records are maintained in accordance with this QAPP. In addition, these actions and resolutions will be conveyed to the TSSWCB PM both verbally and in writing in the project progress reports and by completion of a CAR. All deficiencies identified by each entity will trigger a corrective action plan.

Corrective Action

Corrective Action Reports (CARs) should:

- Identify the problem, nonconformity, or undesirable situation
- Identify immediate remedial actions if possible
- Identify the underlying cause(s) of the problem
- Identify whether the problem is likely to recur, or occur in other areas
- Evaluate the need for Corrective Action
- Use problem-solving techniques to verify causes, determine solution, and develop an action plan
- Identify personnel responsible for action
- Establish timelines and provide a schedule
- Document the corrective action
- Evaluate the need for qualification or exclusion of data

The status of CARs will be included with quarterly progress reports. In addition, significant conditions (i.e., situations which, if uncorrected, could have a serious effect on safety or on the validity or integrity of data) will be reported to the TSSWCB immediately.

The Project Lead or PM or each respective entity is responsible for implementing and tracking corrective actions. Records of audit findings and corrective actions are maintained by the Project Lead or PM of each respective entity. Audit reports and corrective action documentation will be submitted to the TSSWCB with the Progress Report.

LDCs

In addition to those listed above, the following assessment and response actions will be applied to updated LDCs. As described in Section B9 (Non-direct Measurements), modeling staff will evaluate data to be used for updating LDC assessments according to criteria discussed in Section A7 (Quality Objectives and Criteria for Model Inputs/Outputs Data) and will follow-up with the various data sources on any concerns that may arise.

Corrective action is required to ensure that conditions adverse to quality data are identified promptly and corrected as soon as possible. Corrective actions include identification of root causes of problems and successful correction of identified problem and will be documented utilizing CARs. CARs (Appendix A) will be completed to document the problems and the remedial action taken. Copies of CARs will be included in QPRs and will discuss any problems

encountered and their solutions. These CARs are the responsibility of the QAO and the PM and will be disseminated to individuals listed in section A3.

Section C2: Reports to Management

Quarterly progress reports developed by the PM and Project Co-Leaders will note activities conducted in connection with the project, items or areas identified as potential problems, and any variations or supplements to the QAPP. CAR forms will be utilized when necessary (Appendix A). CARs will be maintained in an accessible location for reference by all project personnel and at TWRI and disseminated to individuals listed in section A3. CARs that result in any changes or variations from the QAPP will be made known to pertinent project personnel and documented in an update or amendment to the QAPP.

If the procedures and guidelines established in this QAPP are not successful, corrective action is required to ensure that conditions adverse to quality data are identified promptly and corrected as soon as possible. Corrective actions include identification of root causes of problems and successful correction of identified problem. CARs will be filled out to document the problems and the remedial action taken. Copies of CARs will be included with the project's quarterly reports. These reports will discuss any problems encountered and solutions made. These reports are the responsibility of the QAO and the PM and will be disseminated to individuals listed in section A3.

The final report for this project will be a technical report detailing the Water Quality and Pollutant Loading Assessment in Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek and will include information detailing the results and findings of updated LDCs and SWQM work conducted under this QAPP. Items in this report will include a very brief description of methodologies utilized and implications of these findings.

Section D1: Data Review, Validation and Verification

For the purposes of this document, data verification is a systematic process for evaluating performance and compliance of a set of data to ascertain its completeness, correctness, and consistency using the methods and criteria defined in the QAPP. Validation means those processes taken independently of the data-generation processes to evaluate the technical usability of the verified data with respect to the planned objectives or intention of the project. Additionally, validation can provide a level of overall confidence in the reporting of the data based on the methods used.

All data obtained from field and laboratory measurements will be reviewed and verified for conformance to project requirements, and then validated against the data quality objectives which are listed in Section A7. Only those data which are supported by appropriate quality control data and meet the measurement performance specification defined for this project will be considered acceptable and submitted to the TCEQ for entry into SWQMIS.

The procedures for verification and validation of data are described in Section D2, below. The ATL LM and ATL QAO are responsible for ensuring that laboratory data are scientifically valid, defensible, of acceptable precision and bias, and reviewed for integrity. The TWRI DM will be responsible for ensuring that all data are properly reviewed and verified, and submitted in the required format to be loaded into SWQMIS. The ATL QAO is responsible for validating a minimum of 10% of the data produced in each task. Finally, the ATL QAO is responsible for validating that all data to be reported meet the objectives of the project and are suitable for reporting to TCEQ.

Section D2: Validation Methods

SWQM

Field and laboratory data will be reviewed, verified and validated to ensure conformance with project specifications and adherence to end use as described in Section A7 of this document.

Data review, verification, and validation will be performed using self-assessments and peer and management review as appropriate to the project task. The data review tasks to be performed by field and laboratory staffs are listed in the first column of Table D2.1. Potential errors are identified by examination of documentation and by manual or computer-assisted examination of corollary or unreasonable data. If a question arises or an error is identified, the manager of the task responsible for generating the data is contacted to resolve the issue. Issues which can be corrected are corrected and documented. If an issue cannot be corrected, the task manager consults with the higher level project management to establish the appropriate course of action, or the data associated with the issue are rejected and not reported to the TSSWCB for submission to TCEQ for storage in SWQMIS. Field and laboratory reviews, verifications, and validations are documented.

Table D2.1. Data Review Tasks

Data to be Verified	Field	Lab	Data Manager
Sample documentation complete; samples labeled, sites identified	Y	Y	
Field QC samples collected for all analytes as prescribed in the TCEQ <i>SWQM Procedures Manual</i>	Y		
Standards and reagents traceable	Y	Y	
Chain of custody complete/acceptable	Y	Y	
NELAP Accreditation is current		Y	
Sample preservation and handling acceptable	Y	Y	
Holding times not exceeded	Y	Y	
Collection, preparation, and analysis consistent with SOPs and QAPP	Y	Y	Y
Field documentation (e.g., biological, stream habitat) complete	Y		Y
Instrument calibration data complete	Y	Y	Y
Bacteriological records complete	Y	Y	
QC samples analyzed at required frequency	Y	Y	Y
QC results meet performance and program specifications	Y	Y	Y
Analytical sensitivity (LOQ/AWRL) consistent with QAPP	Y	Y	Y
Results, calculations, transcriptions checked	Y	Y	Y
Laboratory bench-level review performed		Y	
All laboratory samples analyzed for all scheduled parameters	Y	Y	Y
Corollary data agree	Y	Y	Y
Nonconforming activities documented	Y	Y	Y
Outliers confirmed and documented; reasonableness check performed		Y	Y
Time based on 24-hour clock			Y
Absence of transcription error confirmed	Y	Y	Y
Absence of electronic errors confirmed	Y	Y	Y
Sampling and analytical data gaps checked	Y	Y	Y
Field instrument pre and post calibration results within limits	Y		Y
10% of data manually reviewed	Y	Y	Y

After the field and laboratory data are reviewed, another level of review is performed once the data are combined into a data set. This review step as specified in Table D2.1 is performed by the TWRI DM and QAO. Data review, verification, and validation tasks to be performed on the data set include, but are not limited to, the confirmation of laboratory and field data review, evaluation of field QC results, additional evaluation of anomalies and outliers, analysis of sampling and analytical gaps, and confirmation that all parameters and sampling sites are included in the QAPP.

The Data Review Checklist (See Appendix D) covers three main types of review: data format and structure, data quality review, and documentation review. The Data Review Checklist is transferred with the water quality data submitted to the TSSWCB to ensure that the review process is being performed.

Another element of the data validation process is consideration of any findings identified during the monitoring systems audit conducted by the TSSWCB QAO. Any issues requiring corrective action must be addressed, and the potential impact of these issues on previously collected data will be assessed. After the data are reviewed and documented, the TWRI PM verifies that the data meet the data quality objectives of the project and are suitable for reporting to TSSWCB and subsequently TCEQ.

If any requirements or specifications of the QAPP are not met, based on any part of the data review, the responsible party should document the nonconforming activities and submit the information to the TWRI DM with the data. This information is communicated to the TSSWCB by the TWRI in the Data Summary (See Appendix D).

LDCs

There is no validation and calibration for LDCs as they are developed using data processors.

Water quality and streamflow data in the TCEQ SWQMIS Database and the USGS have been verified and validated according to the requirements of the respective programs prior to their use in this project. Data compilations created for this project will be visually screened for errors by TWRI Staff. To verify the correctness of FDCs/LDCs, the TWRI staff will ensure that the methods for updating FDCs/LDCs (USEPA 2008) are followed and will verify that data formatting and inputting were done correctly and that outputs were produced error free.

GIS Inventory

Data for this portion of the project (e.g., land use, urban areas, population projections, digital elevation models, stream layers, and population projections) as provided in Table B9.1 have been collected and made publicly accessible by authoritative sources such as the USGS, USDA, USEPA, and U.S. Census Bureau. Data from these sources will be considered as verified and validated by the various agencies providing the data. However, data compilations created for this project will be visually screened for errors. Any errors detected by project staff will be reported to the TWRI PM and, if necessary, to the TSSWCB PM for resolution. Issues which can be readily corrected, e.g., removal of outlier data, will be documented and the data either removed, qualified, or corrected prior to further analysis.

Section D3: Reconciliation with User Requirements

SWQM

Data produced in this project, and data collected by other organizations will be analyzed and used in the development of water quality restoration plans. Data that do not meet requirements described in this QAPP will not be submitted to SWQMIS nor will it be considered appropriate for any of the uses noted above.

Data collected from this project will be analyzed by TWRI to document the current state of water quality in Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek. Data will be used to augment the existing geometric means that will be compared to the water quality standard.

Data produced in this project will be analyzed and reconciled with project data quality requirements. Data meeting project requirements may be used by the TCEQ for the *Texas Water Quality Integrated Report* in accordance with the most recent approved version of the TCEQ's *Guidance for Assessing Texas Surface and Finished Drinking Water Quality Data*, and for TMDL development, water quality standards development, and permit decisions as appropriate. Data that do not meet data quality objectives outlined in this document will not be submitted to SWQMIS.

LDC

The LDC framework utilized for this project will be used to determine maximum allowed bacteria (*E. coli*) loadings within the water bodies evaluated in Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek. This approach will utilize historical flow data and the primary contact recreation criterion for waters to determine this pollutant load allocation. Exceedances of the allowable load for each waterbody will be determined using the procedures outlined in USEPA (2008) by the TWRI and will provide the basis for future load reductions needed.

The LDC results will be described in detail in the final report and used for educational purposes as appropriate and will aid in making informed decisions about future action to address pollutant loading issues across the watersheds. The limitations of LDCs produced will also be described in the report and conveyed to audiences when discussed.

GIS Inventory

GIS inventory and maps developed for this project will be used for informational purposes only and will not be used exclusively to make any management decisions. Instead, these maps will aid the user by allowing them to visualize the watersheds' features and influences within the watersheds that could contribute to the overall bacteria loading. The limitations of maps produced will be described in the project final report and conveyed to audiences when discussed. Potential limitations may include accuracy and precision of the land use data and planning documents.

References

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- TCEQ. 2016. Surface Water Quality Data Management Reference Guide. Water Quality Planning Division, Monitoring & Assessment Section, Data Management & Analysis Team.
https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/waterquality/dma/dmrg/dmrg_complete.pdf.
- TCEQ. 2015. 2014 Guidance for Assessing and Reporting Surface Water Quality in Texas (June 2015): In Compliance with Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act.
- TCEQ. 2012. Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 1: Physical and Chemical Monitoring Methods. TCEQ, RG-415 Revised August 2012.
- TCEQ. 2014. Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 2: Methods for Collecting and Analyzing Biological Assemblage and Habitat Data. TCEQ, RG-416. Revised May 2014.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes. Manual #EPA-600/4-79-020
- USGS 2012. “Computing Discharge Using the Index Velocity Method.” In Surface-Water Techniques. Techniques and Methods 3-A23.
- USGS 2013. “Measuring Discharge with Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers from a Moving Boat.” In Surface-Water Techniques. Techniques and Methods 3-A22 Version 2.0.

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Appendix A: Corrective Action Report

SOP-QA-001

CAR #:_____

Date:_____

Area/Location:_____

Reported by:_____

Activity:_____

State the nature of the problem, nonconformance or out-of-control situation:

Possible causes:

Recommended Corrective Actions:

CAR routed to:_____

Received by:_____

Corrective Actions taken:

Has problem been corrected?:

YES

NO

Immediate Supervisor:_____

Program Manager:_____

TWRI Quality Assurance Officer:_____

TSSWCB Quality Assurance Officer:_____

Appendix B: Field Data Reporting Form

Continued Surface Water Quality Monitoring for Middle Yegua Creek, Davidson Creek, and Deer Creek
Watersheds Water Quality Monitoring Field Data Form PLEASE PRINT (Black, Indelible Ink)

Monitor's Name:		Station ID #:	
Sample Location:		Sample Type: Routine	
Date:	Sample Time (6 hr):	Sample Depth (Meters):	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> MMDDYY </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> HHMM </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">(Not Total Depth)</div>	
Field Measurements			
Code	Data	Descriptor	
00400		pH (Standard Units)	
00010		Water Temperature (Celsius)	
00300		Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	
00094		Specific Conductance (micro S/cm)	
00061		Instantaneous Stream Flow (cfs)	
00078		Secchi Depth (meters)	
31699		E. coli IDEXX Method MPN/100mL	
82903		Depth to water bottom at sample site (Meters)	
Field Observations			
01351		Flow Severity (1-no flow, 2-low, 3-normal, 4-flood, 5-high, 6-dry)	
89835		Flow Measurement Method (1-gage, 2-electric, 3-mechanical, 4-wier/flume, 5-doppler)	
72053		Days since last significant rainfall	
<i>If sampling from an perennial pool (isolated pool)</i>			
89864		Maximum pool width (Meters)	
89865		Maximum pool depth (Meters)	
89869		Pool length (Meters)	
89870		Percentage the pool covers within a 500 meter reach	
Parameters Collected (Circle Appropriate): E. coli (IDEXX) 9223 B			
Other Observations:			
Comments:			
I CERTIFY THAT ALL PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED AND THIS INFORMATION IS ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.			
CERTIFIED MONITOR'S SIGNATURE		DATE	DATA MANAGER'S SIGNATURE
			DATE

Appendix C: Chain of Custody Record

Appendix D: Data Review Checklist and Data Summary Sheet

Data Review Checklist

Title of associated QAPP: _____

J, X, or N/A

Data Format and Structure

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| A. | Are there any duplicate <i>Tag ID</i> numbers? | _____ |
| B. | Are the <i>Tag prefixes</i> correct? | _____ |
| C. | Are all <i>Tag ID</i> numbers 7 characters? | _____ |
| D. | Are TCEQ station location (SLOC) numbers assigned? | _____ |
| E. | Are sampling <i>Dates</i> in the correct format, MM/DD/YYYY? | _____ |
| F. | Is the sampling <i>Time</i> based on the 24-hour clock (e.g. 13:04)? | _____ |
| G. | Is the <i>Comment</i> field filled in where appropriate (e.g. unusual occurrence, sampling problems, unrepresentative of ambient water quality) and any punctuation deleted? | _____ |
| | | |
| H. | <i>Source Code 1, 2</i> and <i>Program Code</i> are valid and used correctly? | _____ |
| I. | Is the sampling date in the <i>Results</i> file the same as the one in the <i>Events</i> file? | _____ |
| J. | Values represented by a valid parameter (<i>STORET</i>) code with the correct units and leading zeros? | _____ |
| K. | Are there any duplicate parameter codes for the same <i>Tag Id</i> ? | _____ |
| L. | Are there any invalid symbols in the Greater Than/Less Than (<i>GT/LT</i>) field? | _____ |
| M. | Are there any tag numbers in the <i>Results</i> file that are not in the <i>Events</i> file? | _____ |
| N. | Have confirmed outliers been identified? (with a "■" in the <i>Verify_flg</i> field) | _____ |
| O. | Have grab data (bacteria, for example) taken during 24-hr events been reported separately as RT samples? | _____ |
| P. | Is the file in the correct format (ASCII pipe-delimited text)? | _____ |

Data Quality Review

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| A. | Are all the values reported at or below the AWRL? | _____ |
| B. | Have the outliers been verified? | _____ |
| C. | Checks on correctness of analysis or data reasonableness performed?
e.g.: Is ortho-phosphorus less than total phosphorus?
Are dissolved metal concentrations less than or equal to total metals? | _____ |
| D. | Have at least 10% of the data in the data set been reviewed against the field and laboratory data sheets? | _____ |
| E. | Are all parameter codes in the data set listed in the QAPP? | _____ |
| F. | Are all stations in the data set listed in the QAPP? | _____ |

Documentation Review

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| A. | Are blank results acceptable as specified in the QAPP? | _____ |
| B. | Were control charts used to determine the acceptability of field duplicates? | _____ |
| C. | Was documentation of any unusual occurrences that may affect water quality included in the Event file Comments field? | _____ |
| D. | Were there any failures in sampling methods and/or deviations from sample design requirements that resulted in unreportable data? If yes, explain on next page. | _____ |
| E. | Were there any failures in field and laboratory measurement systems that were not resolvable and resulted in unreportable data? If yes, explain on next page. | _____ |

J = Yes X = No N/A = Not applicable

Describe any data reporting inconsistencies with AWRL specifications. Explain failures in sampling methods and field and laboratory measurement systems that resulted in data that could not be reported to the TCEQ. (attach another page if necessary):

Date Submitted to TCEQ: _____

Tag ID Series: _____

Date Range: _____

Data Source: _____

Comments (attach README.TXT file if applicable):

Planning Agency's Data Manager Signature: _____

Date: _____

DATA SUMMARY

Data Set Information

Data Source: _____.

Date Submitted: _____.

Tag_id Range: _____.

Date Range: _____.

Comments:

Please explain in the space below any data discrepancies discovered during data review including:

- Inconsistencies with AWRL specifications or LOQs
- Failures in sampling methods and/or laboratory procedures that resulted in data that could not be reported to the TCEQ (indicate items for which the Corrective Action Process has been initiated).
- Include completed Corrective Action Plans with the applicable Progress Report.

- ☐ I certify that all data in this data set meets the requirements specified in Texas Water Code Chapter 5, Subchapter R (TWC §5.801 et seq) and Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 25, Subchapters A & B.
- ☐ This data set has been reviewed using the Data Review Checklist.

Planning Agency Data Manager: _____.

Date: _____.